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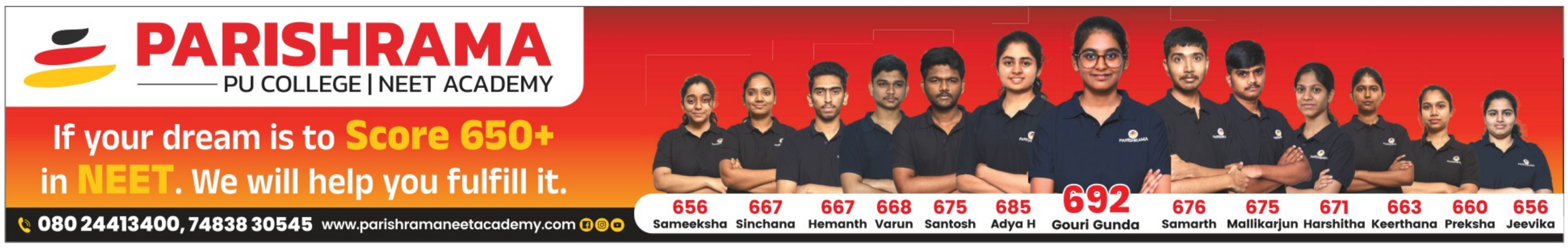

17 workers killed as fire breaks out after 'reactor blast' at A.P. pharma plant

Harish Gilai
ANAKAPALLI

Tragic incident: An ambulance coming out of the pharma company in Anakapalli on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

At least 17 workers were killed and 20 sustained burns in a fire that broke out reportedly after a reactor blast in a plant that manufactures intermediate chemicals and pharmaceutical ingredients in the Special Economic Zone at Atchutapuram in Anakapalli of Andhra Pradesh on Wednesday.

The death toll is likely to go up as bodies of several workers were feared trapped under the rubble of the slab from the first floor of the four-storey building housing Escientia Advanced Sciences Private Ltd. Body parts of some workers were thrown to some distance on the company premises. Thick smoke engulfed the area.

Ten fire tenders from Anakapalli and Visakhapatnam, apart from a few from various pharma units, rushed to the spot. Two teams of the National Disaster Response Force were deployed. The personnel rescued workers stuck on the third floor.

As many as 381 workers have been working in two shifts in the company. The blast took place around 2.15 p.m., during shift change.

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu ordered a high-level inquiry.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

Centre debates taking a caste count during Census

A column on caste in the survey form is being considered, says a top government source; move comes amid persistent demands from Congress and other parties to conduct such an exercise

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Union government is yet to take a call on conducting the next Census, but active discussion is on to expand the data collection to include caste enumeration, a top government source told *The Hindu*.

"Discussions are on to include a column to record the caste of people during the next Census exercise. No decision has been taken yet," the source said.

The move comes amid persistent demands by the Congress and other political parties, including National Democratic Alliance partners of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, to record caste. "One of the reasons that has indefinitely delayed the Census is also the demand by political parties to conduct a caste census. Any wrong narrative can upset the whole exercise," the source said.

Other than enumerating the Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST), a caste-wise count of population as part of the Census has not been done in Independent India.

In 2011, the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) conducted the first-ever caste count, separate from the Census exercise, but the findings were never made public.

In 2021, the Union government submitted an affidavit in the Supreme Court that the caste data enumerated in the Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC) of 2011 was fraught with "mistakes and inaccuracies".

The total number of castes, according to the 1931 Census, was 4,147 and the SECC compiled more than 46 lakh castes, sub-castes and names.

"Assuming that some castes may bifurcate into sub-castes, the total number cannot be exponentially high to this extent," the affidavit read, adding that the data cannot be relied on for reservation in education, employment or elections to local authorities.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

Past attempts

Other than enumeration of SCs and STs, the caste-wise count of population as part of the Census has not been done in Independent India

- In 2011, the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) conducted the first-ever caste count, separate from the Census exercise, but the findings were never made public
- In 2015, the Congress government in Karnataka commissioned a caste census, the report of which has not been made public

- Bihar was one of the first States to conduct and publish a caste census report in 2023

NEARBY

State ready to arrest HDK in graft case: CM

KALABURAGI/BENGALURU
With the SIT of Lokayukta seeking permission from the Governor to prosecute Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy in a case of illegal approval of a lease for iron ore mining, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said his government would not hesitate to arrest the JD(S) leader, if need be. » PAGE 5

Pay to stay longer at SMVT station

BENGALURU
In an effort to reduce congestion at Sir M. Visvesvaraya Terminal in Baiyappanahalli, a parking fee has been imposed for vehicles dropping off or picking up passengers if they stay beyond 10 minutes. » PAGE 3

Growth of e-commerce a matter of concern: Goyal

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Wednesday hit out at predatory pricing policies of e-commerce players such as Amazon, signalling that the sharp growth of online retail could cause a huge "social disruption" by eating into the prospects of 100 million small stores that create jobs across India.

"I don't see it as a matter of pride that half our market could be driven by e-commerce 10 years from now. It's a matter of concern," he said.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 15

Champai Soren says he will form new political party, raise voice for Dalits, tribes

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Champai Soren

Champai Soren, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha leader and former Jharkhand Chief Minister, on Wednesday announced that he would form a new political party.

"I have decided that I will not retire from politics and will form my own political party. Along with it, if I find a friend who talks about the interests of tribal people and Dalits, I will move forward with them. Everyone knows that when I was nothing, I used to raise my voice for the rights of the tribal people and Dalits, I used to fight for them," Mr. Champai said, addressing a gathering in his home district of Seraikela-Kharsawan.

In a social media post on Sunday, Mr. Champai alleged that he had felt insulted by the JMM, while describing the events that led to his resignation as Chief Minister on July 3. He said he was shattered by the manner in which he was asked to resign to make way for Hemant Soren. On Wednesday, he met his supporters at his residence at Jilinggora and then addressed gatherings at several places.

On Tuesday night, he said that he had once decided to retire from politics, but, after seeing the enthusiasm of his supporters, he decided against it. When Mr. Champai landed in New Delhi on Sunday, there was speculation that he would join the BJP. Reacting to the rumours, he told presspersons at his village that he had gone to the national capital to meet his daughter and grandchildren.

HIGH ALERT

WHO probing polio case in Meghalaya

NEWS » PAGE 14

MAIDEN VISIT

PM arrives in Warsaw for bilateral meet

NEWS » PAGE 12

Governor given bulletproof car

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Congress launched an agitation against Thaawarchand Gehlot recently

The State government has provided a bulletproof SUV for Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot following security concerns.

"The office of the Governor asked for a bulletproof vehicle in light of recent threats of protests and provocative statements against him. The Governor is entitled to a bulletproof vehicle, but Mr. Gehlot had not been using it. Now that his office requested it, we have provided one," a senior police official told *The Hindu*. The Congress recently launched an agitation against the Governor's decision to sanction the prosecution of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in the alleged scam at the Mysore Urban Development Authority.

At one of these protests, Congress MLC Ivan D'Souza recently threatened to launch a Bangladesh-type agitation to force the Governor to vacate his office.

The Karnataka unit of BJP petitioned the State police chief Alok Mohan, seeking action against not only Mr. D'Souza but also Ministers Krishna Byre Gowda and B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan for allegedly threatening the Governor.

Fame's double-edged sword follows shooter Manu

If one successfully obtains the coveted medal in India, they may advise you to proceed with caution as it takes courage and patience to deal with the overnight success that comes with its own cost; the Indian double Olympic medallist is no exception

Mayank Chaudhary
CHENNAI

India is an Olympic medal-starved country. And being a Games medallist in a country of around 150 crore is a rare thing.

Years of relentless effort, dedication, detachment from the world, and immense sacrifice do not guarantee success at the grandest stage.

However, if one successfully obtains the coveted medal in India, they may advise you to proceed with caution as it takes courage and patience to deal with the overnight success that comes with its own cost.

For them, facing a barrage of unwanted questions, unsolicited bits of advice, and weird requests go hand in hand with the sudden fame. Some grow into it; others struggle to cope.

The young sensation, Haryana's Manu Bhaker, joins the elusive list of celebrated sports personalities who rose to fame after the Paris Olympics.

Manu, World No. 5, created history by becoming the first Indian athlete in the post-independence era to win multiple medals in a single edition at the Summer Games in Paris.

Manu finished third to bag bronze in the women's 10-meter air pistol and mixed 10-meter air pistol.

Her unfortunate third-place shoot-off series against the former world record holder, Hungary's Veronika Major, saw her finish fourth, after missing one extra shot in the women's 25m pistol final.

With two Olympic medals, Manu achieved something in Paris that no Indian has ever achieved.

Manu's triumph brought her to the heartland of Tamil Nadu.

Chennai, a city known for star adulation, tried to deliver a dazzling show for the shooter, who was felicitated by the Velammal Nexus for her historic double in the Paris Olympics at the Velammal Mall here on Tuesday.

Velammal group's school students made cardboard cut-outs, a miniature Eiffel Tower, a 10-foot Rubik's cube pop art portrait of Manu, the shooter's hand-drawn portraits, a podium, a crown, and a pageant, among several other things.

At the entrance of the event hall, a well-decorated wall dedicated to Manu, adorned with over 250 Polaroid prints, greeted attendees. At the same time, a 10-year-old boy was ready to unleash his tennis-ball juggling skills on a one-wheel cycle, which might take one back to old Rambo Circus days.

A royal welcome was expected. It did happen with energetic sounds of trumpets and drums all too briefly before the beautiful set-up was marred by a howling ruckus of media persons and YouTubers who gatecrashed Manu's entourage. However, the warmth shown by hundreds of students powered over the commotion as Manu entered the venue.

Before distributing sports scholarships worth Rs. 2 crore to the group's sports achievers, Manu took a moment to sign a few pencil sketches of herself, drawn by the students.

ANI

Once the scholarships were handed out, the spotlight returned to the 22-year-old star. A question-and-answer session followed, where Manu faced a mix of reactions – disappointment for not recognising Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin and applause for knowing popular actor Vijay.

Patient

Manu remained patient throughout, diligently answering each question. Then, a student made an unexpected request: a song.

With a touch of reluctance and a hint of embarrassment, Manu obliged, singing 'Dekha Tenu Pehli-Pehli Baar Ve' by Mohammad Faiz and Jaani – a not-so-expected sight at a medal felicitation event.

But the surprises didn't end there. When asked to join a group of schoolgirls dancing to the Bollywood hit 'Kala Chashma,' Manu couldn't refuse. With grace and good humour, she joined in, grooving alongside the delighted students.

The event wound down, but the barrage of questions didn't.

Right when the proceedings were coming to an end, a reporter fired a curveball: "Vinesh's judgement was politically motivated. What's your opinion?"

Manu's face remained unreadable as she processed the question. Before she could respond, another question was hurled – this time at her mother: "What was your conversation with Neeraj (Chopra)?"

That was the tipping point for Manu. Without a word, she decided not only to leave those questions unanswered but to leave the place altogether.

In India, where successful athletes tend to be celebrated more than they should and remarks over personal attributes take up more attention than professional achievements, the spotlight can feel overwhelming and misplaced.

After all this, if one wants to know how fame truly feels, try asking Neeraj Chopra. Curious about the flip side? Perhaps ask Arjun Babuta.

THE GIST

- Manu is the first Indian woman to win an Olympic medal in shooting
- When she bagged the mixed team bronze in 10m air rifle, she emerged the first Indian post-Independence to clinch two medals in the same edition of the Games. She is the second Indian to do so after Norman Pritchard (200m sprint and 200m hurdles) in the 1900 Paris Olympics
- Manu is the fourth Indian to win multiple medals in the Olympics after Pritchard (athletics), Sushil Kumar (wrestling) and P.V. Sindhu

Ultimate Table Tennis and its remarkable impact on the Indian paddlers

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

The Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) League has provided a world-class atmosphere to paddlers from all over the world. Wong Chun Ting of Hong Kong, a former top-20 player, and Nigeria's Quadri Aruna, current World No. 20, have been effusive in their praise of the league's playing environment.

But the biggest takeaway is what UTT has done for Indian table tennis, giving them the confidence and energy to challenge the world's best.

Bengaluru Smashers' Manika Batra described it best.

"Personally it has helped me because players from different countries for the UTT. We play against them, we play with them... it's fun and we enjoy it. I can see the growth, especially in women's table tennis in India. We are all performing well internationally too, thanks to UTT," said Manika.

Szocs and Sharath. PTI

Romania's Bernadette Szocs of Ahmedabad SG Pipers, ranked 13th in the world, said the Indian women players have improved by leaps and bounds. "They have really improved and I am really impressed," said Szocs.

In fact, in the 2024 Paris Olympics, the Indian women edged out a higher-ranked Romania 3-2 in the pre-quarterfinals. In the second rubber, Manika eased past Szocs in straight games.

Sharath Kamal, India's flag-bearer at the Opening Ceremony of the Games, was delighted by the Indian women's team's show.

"This was the first time both our men's and women's teams qualified for the Olympics. Our first milestone was achieved. The women's team reached the last eight while Sreeja Akula and Manika entered the round of 16, which was fantastic. They have put India on the world map. Their performance has been consistently progressing," said Sharath.

UTT has given a golden opportunity for some players like the 16-year-old P. B. Abhinandh, who will turn out for Chennai Lions. According to Sharath, Abhinandh is a good talent. "He had a good season at the National and Internatioanal level. He played in the World youth (u-15) table tennis championships [last year]. He's a bright talent. Tamil Nadu has always produced good players and he is one of them," said Sharath.

About Lions' chances in Season 5, Sharath said: "The management has changed and the new owners have brought in a positive energy. We have a good balance of youth and experience. Japan's Sakuri Mori is playing in her second season while Jules Rolland of France is competing for the first time. Mouma Das is an experienced campaigner. It is important that we start well."

G. Sathiyan was gung-ho about Dabang Delhi TTC's chances. As the captain and only player who has played for Dabang in all its four seasons, Sathiyan said the players were upbeat. "Dabang is more like a family. It's the trust between the players and management that is the key.

"Playing in Chennai, we will have home support and can use it to our advantage. Hopefully, we will be the first team to win the crown twice," said the 31-year-old, the oldest player in the Dabang ranks.

Playing with long-pimpled rubber on her backhand, Ayhika Mukherjee has produced good results on the world stage.

In Busan in February this year, Ayhika stunned World No. 1 Sun Yingsha of China. The Indian credited UTT for her good performancee. "To beat Yinghsa was a morale-booster. I just enjoyed every moment of the match. UTT has helped me a lot by producing a world-class atmosphere," she said.

Harmeet Desai, who will represent Goa Challengers, has been a consistent player. In fact, the 31-year-old was instrumental in India booking a ticket to Paris. It was his gutsy performance against Kazakhstan in the round of 32 that ensured a 3-2 win and a flight to the French capital.

"We have a totally different scenario this year as eight teams will be participating, but we are very confident. There is considerable pressure, but I'm used to it," said Harmeet, who was upbeat about defending champion Goa's chances.

"We will be fighting against seven outfits for the title. The teams have been split into two groups. So, each set is important and we will take it one contest at a time. Our first match is against a strong Jaipur Patriots, which has a perfect balance of Indians as well as international players. Our focus is on that fixture," said Harmeet.

As the players get ready to take centrestage, UTT is all set to provide high-quality action for the next fortnight (August 22 to September 7).

‘Dominance of pvt. varsities will make education inaccessible to the poor’

Higher Education Minister Sudhakar says State universities are facing problems with grants and academic and research privileges

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Higher Education Minister M.C. Sudhakar lamented the “growing dominance of private universities in the education sector” and said that this trend was making education “increasingly inaccessible to underprivileged students”. He was speaking at the first convocation of Nrupathunga University in the city on Wednesday. Notably, the Minister raised the issue in the presence of M. Jagadesh Kumar, Chairman of the University Grants Commission, who delivered the convocation address.

Minister M.C. Sudhakar with UGC Chairman M. Jagadeesh Kumar, and Vice-Chancellor of Nrupathunga University Shrinivas S. Balli after presenting honorary doctorate to space scientist Nandini Harinath, Ramaswamy Balasubramaniam of Vivekananda Youth Movement, and K. Dinesh, one of the founders of Infosys, at the first convocation of the university in Bengaluru on Wednesday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Dr. Sudhakar pointed out that the National Institutional Ranking Framework rankings revealed a significant decline in the performance of public universities. “As many as 61% of public universities have seen a decline,” he said. “All public universities in Karnataka are facing financial, academic, and research challenges. We should work together to ensure we do not see a day when private universities dominate and ruin the academic prospects of underprivileged and unprivileged students,” he said, addressing Mr. Kumar.

He cautioned that private universities are consistently outperforming public institutions. “If this trend continues, we may soon witness a scenario where private universities dominate the academic opportunities for the underprivileged. We must work together to address this issue,” he said.

“Although the academic results are good, there is a shortage of teaching staff to maintain the quality of teaching. State universities are facing problems with grants and academic and research privileges. Therefore, the Union government should seriously address this issue, and the UGC and State governments should work together to maintain the excellence of government institutions,” Dr. Sudhakar said.

Inner potential

In his convocation address delivered earlier, Mr. Kumar urged the graduates to persevere and recognize their inner potential. “In our country, we face issues related to human-created structures and natural disasters, which are devastating the lives of the underprivileged. You must work together and be lifelong learners, much like Jagadish Chandra Bose, to find solutions to these challenges,” he said.

A total of 792 students, including 454 undergraduates and 338 postgraduates, received their degrees at the convocation on Wednesday. A total of 16 top-performing students were awarded gold medals for excelling in their respective courses. Degrees were awarded to students from the undergraduate batch of 2020-23 and the postgraduate batches of 2020-22 and 2021-23.

Nandini Harinath, Scientist, Indian Space Research Organisation, Ramaswamy Balasubramaniam of Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement and Infosys co-founder K. Dinesh were honoured with honorary doctorates.

Lake maintenance: BBMP told to submit specimen of MoUs

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has directed the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike and the State government to submit a specimen of a memorandum of understanding to be executed with corporate entities, NGOs, resident welfare associations and others to allow them to take responsibility for lake maintenance according to the terms of the proposed BBMP Community Involvement for Lake Conservation Policy, 2024.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice N.V. Anjaria and Justice K.V. Aravind issued the direction while hearing a batch of PIL petitions on the issues related to lakes in the State and Bengaluru and stormwater drains in Bengaluru.

Appearing for the BBMP and the State government, State Advocate General Shashi Kiran Shetty requested the court to modify its March 4, 2020, interim order and grant permission to allow BBMP, corporate firms and others to take up the public cause of maintaining the lake as the government is not in a position to spend crores of rupees required to maintain 205 lakes under the BBMP.

2020 interim order

The court, in its March 4, 2020 order, said: “Prima facie, it appears to us that by the execution of the said agreements, the State wants to shift its burden of maintaining the lakes to the private corporate entities. Unless the legality of such agreements is examined, we cannot permit the State Government to execute such agreements. Therefore, we direct that till further orders are passed, the State government shall not execute any such MOU with any corporate entity. However, this order will not prevent the State government from taking funds from the corporate entities for rejuvenation of lakes.”

However, senior advocate Jayna Kothari, appearing for some of the petitioners, opposed the government’s fresh move to sign MoUs while emphasising that it is the duty of the civic authorities to maintain the lakes and that the authorities cannot grant possession of lakes to corporate entities.

To this, the AG said the proposed new lake conservation policy nowhere contemplates handing over exclusive possession to the corporate entities, but funds and their participation are invited for maintaining the lakes in a better condition through MoUs.

Following these submissions, the Bench asked the BBMP to prepare a specimen of the MoU and give a copy for the petitioners to seek their suggestion and submit a copy to the court for its consideration during the next date of hearing on September 11.

Metro service suspension leads to chaos at Peenya

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Commuters at Peenya Industry metro station experienced a chaotic morning on Tuesday due to a suspension of metro services between Peenya Industry and Nagasandra stations. The suspension, which took effect on Tuesday and will continue sporadically throughout August and September 2024, caught many travellers off guard, leading to a massive rush during the peak morning hours.

The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (BMRCL) announced the suspension to facilitate critical signalling tests on the Green Line extension. However, many commuters were unaware of these changes, leading to confusion and frustration at the Peenya Industry station.

The suspension, which took effect on August 20, will continue sporadically throughout this month and the next. FILE PHOTO

“We were not aware of it, and the station was packed. The crowd management was poor, and the queue extended outside the station. It was a nightmare,” said Vinod Kumar, a daily commuter who was stuck at the station.

Another commuter, Ayesha Nath, said: “The situation was completely out of control. There were so many people, and the staff seemed overwhelmed. It took me nearly an hour to get inside the station, and by then, the trains were overcrowded.”

Managing crowd

BMRCL officials acknowledged the challenges faced by commuters and assured that efforts were being made to manage the crowd better in the coming days. “We have taken steps to inform the public and manage the crowd. However, since Tuesday was the first day of the disruption, many were not aware, resulting in a larger-than-expected crowd,” said a BMRCL official.

However, on Wednesday there were no issues since there was no disruption according to the officials. The ongoing suspension is crucial for ensuring the safety and efficiency of the metro operations on the extended Green Line, according to BMRCL.

‘HEIs must empower students with appropriate skills’

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chairman of the University Grants Commission, M. Jagadesh Kumar, said all higher educational institutions (HEIs) must impart appropriate skills to students, empowering them to participate in multiple activities to ensure their contribution to the economy. He delivered a lecture, “Building New Age Universities”, at a visionary dialogue organised by the Centre for Educational Excellence and Development in the city on Wednesday.

“Only 11% of the students studying in undergraduate courses join postgraduate studies and only 1% of them for Ph.D. Around 60% of people in India still live in rural areas, and half of our population is below 25 years. Those living in rural areas are also talented. These students cannot depend on farming alone. Why are we not bringing reforms in higher education to transform the lives of these students who are the backbone of our country,” he asked.

“When we empower these students to participate in multiple activities by providing appropriate skills, their per capita income will increase, and the overall economy will be strong. Therefore, we need to focus on these issues,” he added.

He stressed the importance of the quality of the teaching at HEIs to bring in reforms. “If we want to build new-age universities, we need teachers who are good mentors. Make your teachers the best learners. Unless we do build capacity among our teachers, it is going to be a humongous task to bring any reforms,” he said.

‘Alternative Dispute Resolution Week’ in city from Saturday

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The city is set to witness a first of its kind ‘Bengaluru ADR Week’ from August 24 to 26 on the lines of London Disputes Week, Paris Arbitration Week, and Delhi Arbitration Weekend to create a common platform for the members of the judiciary, the Bar and the academic community to exchange contemporary and nuanced issues in Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR).

The event will be organised jointly by the Arbitration and Conciliation Centre, Bengaluru (Domestic and International), the Karnataka Judicial Academy of High Court of Karnataka, the Advocates’ Association, Bengaluru, and the Bengaluru ADR Week Committee.

It aims to contribute significantly to the national discourse on ADR and promises to be a pivotal forum for exploring the significance and evolution of ADR in contemporary legal contexts, said Harish Narasappa, a Senior Advocate and Patron-in-Chief of the committee.

Modelled after similar regional and international initiatives such as the Delhi Arbitration Weekend, London Disputes Week, and Paris Arbitration Week, among others, Bengaluru ADR Week is conceived as an effort to strengthen and further develop a robust ADR ecosystem in the State of Karnataka and Bengaluru in particular, said S. Sriranga, a Senior Advocate and also another Patron-in-Chief of the Committee.

The event, to be held at the Karnataka Judicial Academy, Bengaluru, would be attended by judges of the High Court of Karnataka, former and present judges of the Supreme Court of India, among others.

Labourer held for sexually assaulting woman

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a swift action, Chintamani police on Wednesday arrested a 28-year-old labourer for sexually assaulting a 65-year-old woman on the premises of a hospital on Wednesday.

Based on the complaint of staffers at the Chintamani Government Hospital, the police arrested the accused.

The victim was unwell and had come to the hospital alone for treatment. She was taking rest on the premises when the accused, identified as Irfan, a labourer from Hyderali Nagar, visited the hospital in the early hours of Wednesday and sexually abused and assaulted her. The woman was ill and was exhausted. She raised the alarm, prompting the passersby to rush to her rescue. Based on a complaint, the police tracked down the accused within a few minutes and arrested him. The victim was admitted to the hospital for treatment.

Hotel cook high on drugs attacks doctor, arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 37-year-old doctor was attacked and assaulted by a 35-year-old hotel cook, who was high on drugs and was brought by the police to a private hospital in Bettadasanapura for treatment on Monday night.

The accused, identified as Ashish, a native of Nepal, was detained by police for creating a ruckus on the road under the influence of drugs.

The accused had banged his head against a car and sustained injuries, for which the police brought him to the hospital and left, after handing him over to the doctors. Dr. Nagendrappa admitted him as an in-patient and treated his injuries.

While two nurses were trying to dress up his wounds and administer IV fluids, Ashish became aggressive and ransacked the room, picked up a knife and charged towards the nurses.

The two nurses ran out, even as the patient charged at them with a pair of scissors. Hearing the commotion Dr. Nagendrappa rushed to their help and tried to pacify Ashish.

But the accused attacked Dr. Nagendrappa, slashing his lips and hands with scissors, and even bit him.

Others rushed to his help and, with great difficulty, pinned down Ashish before alerting the police.

The police rushed to the spot and handcuffed the accused to continue his treatment at the hospital before he was taken into custody.

Based on a complaint, the police registered a case on Tuesday against Ashish, charging him under the Karnataka Prohibition of Violence against Medicare Service Personnel and Damage to Property in Medicare Service Institutions Act, 2009 and also under section 115 (voluntarily causing hurt) of BNS for further investigation.

JHARKHAND BIJLI VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED
CIN :-U40108JH2013SGC001702
Regd. Office:- Engineering Building, HEC, Dhurwa, Ranchi–834004.
Email-ID :- cesd.jseb@gmail.com

Short E-Tender Notice
(Through e-procurement mode only www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in)

Online short e-tender is invited for construction of new 33/11 kV Power substation (2x5 MVA) in Mandwadih, block-Gandey under ESSD -Giridih (Rural), ESD-Giridih (south) with associated 33kV & 11kV line.

Sl. No.	NIT No.	Name of Area Board	Description of work	Estimate value (incl. GST Rs). (In Crs.)	EMD value (Incl. GST) (Rs. In Crs.)	Tender Cost (Incl. GST) (In Rs.)	Downloading / Sale of Tender Document	Last Date of submission of Tender Document	Date of Opening of Tender
1.	105/PR/ JBVNL /24-25	Giridih	(i) Construction of 33/11 kV Power Substation (2X5 MVA), Mandwadih, Block - Gandey under Electric Supply Sub-division, Giridih (Rural) (ii) 9 km of New 33 kV line from 33/11 kV PSS Gandey to Mandwatand PSS (Proposed) under Electric supply section, Gandey, Sub-division, Giridih (Rural) (iii) 4.9 km of new 11 kV line from a proposed 33/11 kV PSS Mandwatand to Barmasia Panchyat under Electric supply section, Gandey, Sub-division, Giridih (Rural) (iv) 6 km of new11 kV line from a proposed 33/11 kV PSS Mandwatand to Naitand Panchyat under Electric supply section, Gandey, Sub-division, Giridih (Rural) (v) 5.3 km of new 11 kV line from a proposed 33/11 kV PSS Mandwatand to Fuliori Panchyat under Electric supply section, Gandey, Sub-division, Giridih (Rural) (vi) Civil Work	6.57	0.13	11,800	22.08.24	06.09.24 up to 03:00 PM	09.09.24 after 03:00 PM

Further details against the above Tender can be obtained from website http:jharkhandtenders.gov.in and may be contacted on Mobile No. 8709711244/ 8936066052/ NIC helpline No. 0651-2400178. Submission of bid document fee and EMD will be accepted through online mode only and it's receipt should be submitted to the office of undersigned on or before 06.09.2024.

स्वहित एवं राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बचायें। कृपया अपनी शिकायतों को टॉल फ्री नं० 1800 345 6570 पर दर्ज करायें।

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, V Uma D/o K M Veeranna, legally wedded wife of No.2767870-H Ex-HAV, S N Renuka presently residing at No.8, 479, 2nd Cross, Swimming Pool Road, S S M Layout, Hosakote, Bangalore Rural, Bangalore - 562114 have changed my name from V Uma to V Umadevi, my date of birth is 10/02/1965, vide affidavit dated 20/08/2024 before L.Gopalakrishna, Notary, Bangalore.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, JC-820298X SUB(CLK) Tomake Amar Dinkar, resident of Village - Kalavade, Post Office- Kalavade, Tahasil - Karad, Dist - Satara, State - Maharashtra - 415539 have changed my Mother's name from Tomake Vimal Dinkar to Vimal Dinkar Tomake, and DOB from Age 50 Years (01/07/1947) to 15/11/1956 vide affidavit No.IN-KA89186510829635W dated 17 Aug 2024 before Notary L.Gopalakrishna, B'lore

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE HONOURABLE COURT OF THE X ADDITIONAL DISTRICT JUDGE AT ANAKAPALLI.
I.A. No. 256/2023 in M.O.P. 434/2021
Between:
Budiredla Rama Krishna & 3 others... .....Petitioners
And:
N.S.Manjunatha & 2 others ... Respondents

NOTICE

To, **R-1, N.S.Manjunatha**, S/o. Sankare Gowda, Age not known to the petitioner, R/o. Channarayapatnam, Hassan, Karnataka State - 573116 (The driver of the Lorry bearing no KA 13 C 9500)

Please take notice that the above case posted to for your appearance on **Date: 12-09-2024** at about **10:30 am** before The Honourable Court in person or through your advocate failing which the matter will be decided exparte.

BETINA SRINIVAS, D.S.R. Rajeswari, Gorli Rajesh, Advocates, Sabbavaram Andhra Pradesh, Ph:**99494 75672**

LEGAL NOTICE

BEFORE THE HON'BLE XXXV ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE, BENGALURU AT BENGALURU (CCH-36)
O.S. No. 7586 of 2023

BETWEEN : Lakshmi Ravindra Hebbalkar, Wife of Ravindra Hebbalkar, Aged about 48 years, Residing at Kuvempunagara, Indalga, Belagavi - 591 108. **...Plaintiff No.1**

G C Prakash, Son of Chennagirayappa, Aged about 59 years, Residing at 701, A4 Block, Ganga Apartment, NGV Quarters, Koramanagala, Bangalore - 560 034. **...Plaintiff No.2**

Archana M S, Wife of Mahesh, Aged about 50 years, Residing at 101, 1st Floor, Evanth Aristi, Jayanagar, 8th Block, Bangalore, Bangalore - 560 070. **...Plaintiff No.3**

Nischal B H, Son of H. Gowda, Aged about 45 years, Residing at 41, 1st Cross, 2nd Block, Anjaneya Nagara, BSK, 3rd Stage, Bangalore - 560 085. **...Plaintiff No.4**

AND : Mr. Nataraja Sharma and others ...Defendants

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT NO. 27 UNDER ORDER V RULE 20(1A) OF THE CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE, 1908

To, **D27 : You Tube, C/o Google India Private Limited,** Having office at No. 3, RMZ Infinity- Tower E, Old Madras Road, 4th & 5th Floors, Bangalore, Karnataka, India - 560 016. **...Defendant No.27**

Whereas the Plaintiffs have instituted the above proceedings against you seeking judgment and decree of:

a. Permanent injunction restraining the Defendants, their agents, anchors, news readers, correspondents, employees, servants or any person claiming through or under them, subsidiaries, parent company or any related entities, either jointly or severally from transmitting, broad casting, publishing, distributing, sharing or webhosting in any print, electronic or other medium any statement or other content whatsoever which defames or is calculated to defame the Plaintiffs in relation to supply of food under the ICDS Scheme pursuant to the directions of the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka in Writ Petition No. 3522 of 2022;

b. Mandatory injunction directing the Defendants to publish an unconditional apology for the defamatory statements made and to unconditionally withdraw all such defamatory statements;

c. Mandatory injunction directing the Defendants to take down all defamatory statements transmitted, broadcasted, published, distributed, shared, web-hosted in any print, electronic or other medium made against the Plaintiffs in relation to supply of food under the ICDS Scheme;

d. Pass such other order or directions as this Hon'ble Court deems fit in the interest of justice and equity.

You are hereby summoned to appear before the CCH-36, the XXXV Additional City Civil and Sessions Judge, at Bengaluru in person or by pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the above proceedings **on 27/08/2024 at 11 AM.** Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day mentioned before the Court, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Court, this 01/08/2024

By order of the Court,
Senior Sheristedar,
City Civil Court, Bengaluru.

Advocate for Plaintiff : Rohan Tigadi TLaw Chambers, Unit No. 304, "A" Block, St. Patrick's Complex, Brigade Road, Bengaluru - 560 025. Phone No.: +91-8890111461 Email: rohan@tlawchambers.in

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ICAR, Penn State team makes a tool small enough to edit plant genomes

Researchers have developed a plant genome editor consisting of a protein derived from *Deinococcus radiodurans* bacteria — famous for being able to survive extreme conditions. The protein is less than half the size of the proteins CRISPR commonly uses to target specific parts of the DNA

Sanjukta Mondal

Flour, chocolate, cocoa powder, eggs, and butter are all the ingredients to make a sweet treat you crave.

The only thing you need right now is a step-by-step recipe to help you turn the ingredients into a yummy brownie.

Paddy in Bali, Indonesia. Researchers have expressed hope a new miniature genome-editing tool will help rice crops become shorter and less prone to damage during cyclones. SERGIO CAMALICH/UNSPLASH

Too big for its britches

Nature also has the ingredients it needs to 'make' living organisms, using a genetic instruction manual called the genome. A small change in the genome's composition can determine whether the living thing being made is a flower that exhibits two petal colours, a cat that has big or small ears or if the coriander leaves will taste like soap to some people.

With the help of the CRISPR gene-editing tool, scientists today can precisely edit genomes to introduce desirable genetic traits or remove undesirable ones.

CRISPR holds the potential to revolutionise agriculture in particular by allowing agricultural scientists to increase crop yields and improve resistance to disease and anomalous weather through gene-editing. However, there has been a critical obstacle: a commonly used form of the CRISPR system is too big for plant genomes.

This system uses one of two proteins, Cas9 or Cas12, to target specific parts of the DNA. But they are too bulky for plant cells to accommodate.

Smaller is better

A team of researchers led by Kutubuddin Molla from the ICAR-National Rice Research Institute in Cuttack and Mirza Baig from the Pennsylvania State University in the U.S. presented an alternative that could solve this major problem in plant genome editing in a recent paper in the journal *Plant Biotechnology Journal*.

They reported developing a plant genome editor consisting of a protein called ISDra2TnpB, derived from bacteria called *Deinococcus radiodurans* (famous for being able to survive extreme environmental conditions). ISDra2TnpB is less than half the size of Cas9 and Cas12.

V.S. Sresty Tavva, principal scientist at the Crop Improvement Program at the Tata Institute for Genetics and Society (TIGS), Bengaluru, who wasn't involved in the study, expressed enthusiasm over its findings.

"Currently, [since] there are not many options available for plant genome editors, the improved TnpB certainly adds value. One should utilise the advantage of the size of TnpB in generating edited plants for various traits of interest," he said.

TnpB's editing chops

TnpB is a protein made up of around 400 amino acid units (different combinations of the 20 amino acids make up all proteins). It belongs to a family of transposable elements, or transposons. Sometimes called "jumping genes", transposons are parts of a genome that can move from one location to another.

The genome consists of two strands of DNA bonded to each other. Each strand is made up of building blocks called nucleotides. In turn, each nucleotide has three pieces; two are common to all of them whereas the identity of the third one can be one of four options: adenine (A), thymine (T), cytosine (C) or guanine (G). The DNA's 'sequence' refers to the order in which nucleotides containing these four compounds are arranged.

In the new system, TnpB hitches a ride on a piece of RNA that guides it to the target DNA sequence. Once there the TnpB binds with the sequence and eliminates it. The cell that houses this DNA repairs the cut by restoring the "correct" sequence. Thus, the genome is modified to replace an undesirable sequence with a desirable one.

The researchers behind the new study exploited the genome editing abilities of a TnpB-based system to achieve a 33.58% editing efficiency in an average plant genome on targets that Cas9 or Cas12 couldn't reach. They demonstrated that the genome editor was effective on both types of flowering plants–monocots (like rice, which have one seed leaf) and dicots (like *Arabidopsis*, a plant related to cabbage and mustard that has two seed leaves).

Codons and regulators

The team also built four versions of the TnpB-based editing tool and tested them on rice protoplasts – plant cells without the cell wall – to identify the best among them. In their initial experiments, the versions had a low editing efficiency.

To improve it, Dr. Molla et al. did two things. First, they used a process called codon optimisation. For example, cells in the body make the amino acid lysine by following an instruction in the genome represented by a sequence of three nucleotides. Such sequences of three are called codons.

The codon sequence that contains the recipe for lysine varies in different types of organisms. TnpB is a protein extracted from *D. radiodurans*, a prokaryotic bacteria, which has a different codon for lysine than do eukaryotes like plants. So the researchers edited the codon bias of TnpB to match that of rice protoplasts to improve the editing efficiency, Dr. Molla explained.

> The CRISPR system uses one of two proteins, Cas9 or Cas12, to target specific parts of the DNA. But they are too bulky for plant cells to accommodate

The second thing the researchers tweaked were the regulatory elements. When the TnpB and the specific RNA that guides it to the target DNA are transferred from a prokaryote to a eukaryote, researchers also need to include sequences called promoters and terminators that govern and regulate the expression of TnpB.

"We added promoters that are likely to enhance the expression of TnpB and lead to better editing," Dr. Molla said.

A hi-res upgrade

The researchers finished with some finishing touches to the TnpB-based gene-editing system. They deactivated TnpB and fused it with another protein to create a 'hybrid' base editor.

When accompanied by the guide RNA, this editor could swap out a single nucleotide in the DNA sequence.

This wasn't possible with the previous version, with active TnpB, because it tended only to delete DNA sequences and couldn't swap one sequence for another.

The new base editor thus opened up exciting possibilities for crop innovation by facilitating the alteration of genes at the level of individual nucleotides.

A future of edited plants

The TnpB-based editors the researchers built can edit the plant genome using both base editing and transcription activation, two widely used techniques in plant synthetic biology.

Dr. Tavva however said most of the claims were based on data obtained from protoplasts and that the scenario might change when dealing with processes by which an organism absorbs external DNA and integrates it into its genome.

It also appeared that the efficiency of the base editing system fell short in dicot plants as indicated by the results (0.2-0.46% average editing efficiency) reported using *Arabidopsis*. "Regardless," Dr. Tavva said, "the plant genome editing community should try this miniature editing system in crop species of their choice to improve various traits of interest."

TIGS director Rakesh Mishra echoed him: "It is exciting to see a novel and effective genome editing tool being invented. While more development will be needed, alternatives like this are welcome news."

The researchers have expressed hope this miniature genome editing tool will help remove anti-nutrient factors from food crops, reduce their susceptibility to pests, and help rice crops become shorter and less prone to damage during cyclones.

(Sanjukta Mondal is a chemist-turned-science-writer with experience in writing popular science articles and scripts for STEM YouTube channels. sanjuktamondal.sm@gmail.com)

When a lightning bolt cuts through the air it releases its energy as electromagnetic wave. These waves can be heard as whistling noises. KSL

Earth whistles when lightning strikes, and there's a new melody

Priyali Prakash

The earth is surrounded by a bubble-shaped magnetic field that shields the planet from radiation from the Sun and other celestial objects. This field is called the earth's magnetosphere.

During a solar storm, the Sun shoots out charged particles with more than usual energy through the space around it. Without the magnetosphere, these particles could have rendered life as we know it on earth impossible. But because the magnetosphere is there, these particles become trapped in it and zip around the earth rather than towards the ground in two large doughnut-shaped radiation belts in the upper atmosphere. These are called the Van Allen radiation belts.

The American astrophysicist James Van Allen discovered these belts in 1958 and studied them in detail. Van Allen's work was important for humans to go to the moon, and today we contemplate visiting even more distant parts of space. Van Allen found that some parts of the radiation belts were weaker than others and that flying through these parts would be less damaging to spacefaring humans and instruments.

When lightning strikes, electrical energy flows in a path through the atmosphere that we see as a bolt. As it

> **Without the magnetosphere charged particles released by the Sun would render life impossible. Instead these particles are trapped in what is called the Van Allen radiation belts**

cuts through the air, the bolt releases its energy as electromagnetic waves with a range of frequencies. The earth's magnetic field can guide some of these waves up and into a layer of ionised gas above the atmosphere, where they travel along magnetic field lines – like a train moving on tracks – between the earth's northern and southern hemispheres. The higher the frequency of these waves, the faster they travel (even up to a tenth of the speed of light).

The frequencies of these waves are often within the human hearing range (20-20,000 Hz) and can be heard as whistling noises through a receiver. When the lower frequency waves among them travel, they can shed some energy via parts of the upper atmosphere, so their sounds have a declining tone.

In a paper published in the journal *Science Advances* on August 16, scientists from the University of Alaska Fairbanks reported discovering a new type of whistler wave produced by a previously unknown wave generation mechanism. They found lightning energy injected into the ionosphere at low latitudes could get reflected like a light from a mirror into the magnetosphere. This contradicted previous claims that energy insertion at low latitudes can't escape the ionosphere.

The discovery has significant implications because including this new form of whistlers could double the amount of lightning energy going into the magnetosphere, which in turn means scientists may have to revise their calculations of lightning's effects on the Van Allen radiation belts.

After all, it's a question of humans' doorway to outer space.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Miles to go under deep waters...

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

Siva Shakthi A.

QUESTION 1

Name the transport project that marked its 30th anniversary this year, building on a 200-year-old idea to connect mainland Europe with Great Britain. It goes up to 115 metres below sea level and has the world's longest underwater portion of projects of its kind.

QUESTION 2

For the project in Q1, workers had to excavate nearly 5 million cubic metres of chalky rock that the government later used to build a park named _____ ___ in Kent. Fill in the blanks. Hint: The name comes from that of a plant that grows in the area.

QUESTION 3

Name the world's longest undersea tunnel that also has an underwater portion. It was laid through volcanic, pyroclastic, and sedimentary rocks from the Neogene period in order to host a dual-gauge railway track between two islands.

QUESTION 4

The Thames Tunnel is a tunnel under the Thames river in London. It was built in the mid-19th century and was possibly the first such tunnel to be set up under a navigable river. Marc Brunel, the engineer who built it, was inspired by the burrowing of _____ through wooden ships. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 5

Name the tunnel in Istanbul through which the first standard gauge rail line connecting Asia and Europe was first operated, in 2013. Parts of the tunnel plunge 60 metres below sea level and 55 metres under-seabed.

(Siva Shakthi is a science communicator in Pondicherry and runs the 'No Nonsense Science Club' through which she debunks myths and misinformation using science.)

Answers to August 20 quiz:

1. Trigger other than spice to which TRPV1 responds – **Ans: Heat**
2. Brain part activated to trigger sweat glands – **Ans: Hypothalamus**
3. What water and TRPV1 molecules do to each other – **Ans: Repel**
4. Non-human mammals that can withstand high spiciness – **Ans: Tree shrews**
5. Pharmacist who devised 1912 scale to measure pungency – **Ans: Wilbur Scoville**

Visual: **Ardem Patapoutian**

First contact: Anmol Agrawal | Vedant Shete | K.N. Viswanathan | Seema Das | Isha Joshi

Visual: Name this man. He led a project in 1928 to build Asia's first underwater tunnel in Asia, in Calcutta. He also drew up maps for a railway network under the Hooghly's riverbed in 1921. BBC (CC BY-SA 4.0)

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Quiz contest tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Union Bank of India will conduct a national-level general awareness quiz competition 'U Genius 3.0 2024', for students of class 8 to 12 across the country on August 23.

In Bengaluru, the quiz competition will be held at Jnana Jyothi Auditorium, 11 Palace Road, Ambedkar Veedhi, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. 1,000 students from over 130 schools in and around Bengaluru are participating.

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, AUG. 22
RISE 06:08 SET 18:36
RISE 20:47 SET 08:25

FRIDAY, AUG. 23
RISE 06:08 SET 18:36
RISE 21:31 SET 09:23

SATURDAY, AUG. 24
RISE 06:08 SET 18:35
RISE 22:16 SET 10:20

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	29	23
Mysuru	30	21
Bengaluru	29	22

Bengaluru Today
30°C The weather will be slight warm. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light rain and thundershower will occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
31°C Day will be slight warm with cloudy sky. Night will be pleasant. Short spell of light rain and thundershower is a chance.

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THE HINDU
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Vehicles staying at SMVT station for over 10 minutes must pay fees

A similar fee was imposed at KIA on May 20, but withdrawn the next day following protests

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The access-control system is needed since many vehicles come inside the station and leave late, causing traffic jam. K. MURALI KUMAR

In an effort to reduce congestion at Sir M. Visvesvaraya Terminal in Baiyappanahalli, South Western Railway (SWR) has implemented a new access-control system for vehicles, imposing a parking fee for vehicles dropping off or picking up passengers if they stay beyond 10 minutes.

According to SWR officials, a stay of over 10 minutes will attract overstay charges. "The access-control system for vehicles is very much needed since there are many vehicles that come inside the station and leave late, causing huge traffic jams inside the station. This system will ensure that there are no jams and that smooth vehicle movement will happen within the station," an SWR official said. This will also add to the revenue of SWR. A company has been awarded a tender to manage and maintain this access-control system, ensuring that it operates efficiently.

If a vehicle stays between 10 and 20 minutes, two-wheelers will be required to pay ₹40, while four-wheelers will be charged ₹50. For remaining up to 30 minutes, the fees increase to ₹100 for two-wheelers and ₹200 for four-wheelers.

Similar "stay and overstay charges" were imposed on all private and commercial vehicles at Kempegowda International Airport on May 20. BIAL had allowed private cars coming to drop off and pick up passengers to stay only for up to 7 minutes without any fee, and a stay beyond 7 minutes attracted a parking fee of ₹150. However, all commercial vehicles had to pay ₹150 even for a stay of less than 7 minutes. This drew the ire of taxi drivers and following protests, BIAL withdrew the order the next day.

Mixed response

The response from passengers has been mixed, with some expressing optimism about the potential benefits of the new system. "This initiative by the railways is a welcome change. The congestion at the station has been a nightmare, especially during peak hours. I have often found myself stuck in long lines of vehicles just trying to drop off someone. With this system in place, I believe it will reduce the time wasted in these traffic jams, making it much easier and quicker for us to navigate in and out of the station," said Laxman Kumar, a passenger from Baiyyappanahalli.

Others pointed out the existing challenges, particularly at the entry and exit points of the station. "While the new system may help, I am concerned about how effectively it will be implemented. The main issue has been the bottleneck at the entry and exit points. Even if vehicles are managed inside the station, the problem may shift to the gates," said Ramesh Rao, a passenger from Indiranagar.

JAL to operate five flights a week from city to Tokyo

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

JAL operates its Boeing B787-8 aircraft on the Benglauru-Tokyo route, which seats 186 passengers in a two-class configuration.

Japan Airlines (JAL), to accommodate rising demand, will increase its operations to five flights per week on the Bengaluru-tokyo route, up from the current three flights per week, beginning the last week of October.

Direct connection

Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) is the only airport in South India with direct connection to Japan.

JAL operates its Boeing B787-8 aircraft on this route, which seats 186 passengers in a two-class configuration.

"We are delighted that JAL Group has chosen to expand its operations at KIA, further solidifying our airport's reputation as South and Central India's leading international gateway. This strategic decision not only enhances passenger convenience and boosts regional economic growth but also strengthens our commitment to connecting Bengaluru to major global centres of commerce and tourism," said Satyaki Raghunath, Chief Operating Officer of Bangalore International Airport Limited.

JAL began its operations from KIA on April 12, 2020.

Since then, the passenger traffic between Bengaluru and Japan has grown significantly, with 23,532 passengers in 2022 and a remarkable 167.55% increase to 62,959 passengers in 2023, reflecting strong demand for travel driven by tourism and business between South India and Japan.

This flight service also offers convenient options for persons travelling to and from Japan and for passengers connecting to and from the United States and Canada.

Yelahanka police find ganja saplings at graveyard

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Yelahanka police have stepped up probe after they found eight ganja saplings growing at a burial ground in Attur, Yelahanka, on Monday.

The police got a tip-off that ganja was being cultivated at the Attur burial grounds. When they raided the burial grounds, they found eight ganja saplings which they have now seized. The Yelahanka New Town Police have booked a case under Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.

"Going by the pattern of the samplings found, we suspect that ganja addicts frequented the place for consumption and dumped the used stuff, which led to saplings growing. We have now stepped up vigil to identify people frequenting the place. A detailed probe will give us leads about the consumers and peddlers and the source of the saplings," a senior police official said.

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ISSN 0971 - 751X

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The number of jobs generated by online vendors

15.8 in million. Out of this, 3.5 million jobs were created for women, according to a report prepared by prepared by Pahle India Foundation. It was launched by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal. PTI

Number of MPs and MLAs facing cases of crimes against women

151 According to the Association for Democratic Reforms, 16 of these MPs and MLAs have declared cases related to rape in their election affidavits. West Bengal tops the list with 25 MPs and MLAs facing charges related to crimes against women. PTI

Number of jobs generated in Tamil Nadu over last 3 years

31 in lakh. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin declared that the State has garnered over ₹9 lakh crore in investments over the last three years. He also unveiled a slew of new projects worth ₹68,773 crore that would generate 1 lakh jobs in the State. PTI

Number of people killed in Gaza since October 7

40,223 The death toll includes 50 deaths in the Palestinian territory from August 21, according to the health ministry, which also listed 92,981 people as wounded in Gaza since October 7. AFP

Number of students who failed class 10, 12 exams in 2023

65 in lakh. According to Ministry of Education officials, the failure rate is higher in state boards than in central boards. The highest number of failures in class 12 exams were reported from Uttar Pradesh. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Were 8 crore new jobs created in three years?

Prime Minister Modi, based on the India-KLEMS database, claimed that India created "eight crore new jobs in the last three to four years". However, analysts are questioning the methodology used to estimate these numbers. They argue that little meaningful employment was created in these years

ECONOMIC NOTES

P. C. Mohanan
R. Ramakumar

GETTY IMAGES

THE GIST

- KLEMS stands for Capital (K), Labour (L), Energy (E), Material (M) and Services (S). It is a framework used to measure industry-level "total factor productivity" (TFP), which is considered a measure of the efficiency of all the inputs to produce a unit of output. The objective of the KLEMS framework is not to produce data on employment.
- In India-KLEMS, the estimates of population in 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 were borrowed from the Economic Survey (ES), 2021-22. The ES projected these populations by assuming that population growth rates between 2001 and 2011 were the same for the years after 2011.
- Data from India-KLEMS, which was designed for very different purposes, are being used to drive a political narrative on employment generation.

Employment, or the lack of it, has been a major issue of debate among economists and policy makers in India in recent years. Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi claimed that India created "eight crore new jobs in the last three to four years". The Prime Minister was using data from the India-KLEMS database hosted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). As per this database, the total number of workers in India rose from 56.6 crore in 2020-21 to 64.3 crore in 2023-24, that is, a net rise by 7.8 crore workers. Tailing this claim, the research team of the State Bank of India (SBI) published a validating report that claimed a match between the total number of workers in the India-KLEMS database and in the NSSO's Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE), 2022-2023.

What lent an element of surprise to these claims was the rise in the number of workers over the two COVID-19 years and after. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), the employment-to-population ratio between 2019 and 2023 was stagnant, if not falling, in East Asia, South-East Asia and the Pacific. Given such trends elsewhere, analysts have had serious methodological and empirical suspicions in relying on the India-KLEMS database to posit an outlier status for India in employment creation.

The India-KLEMS project began as an academic exercise financed by the RBI in 2009. From 2022, the RBI hosts the database. KLEMS stands for Capital (K), Labour (L), Energy (E), Material (M) and Services (S). It is a framework used to measure industry-level "total factor productivity" (TFP), which is considered by mainstream economists as a measure of the efficiency of all the inputs to produce a unit of output.

In other words, the objective of the KLEMS framework is not to produce data on employment. The employment figures are merely inputs into the database's modelling framework. Further, the the RBI does not directly collect data on any input, including employment, that enter the India-KLEMS database. It sources sectoral data on employment, input usage and output from official sources, including the Central Statistics Office, Census of India, Annual Survey of Industries and the Periodic Labour Force Surveys (PLFS). It is amusing then that data sourced by the RBI from other official sources, and used as inputs to estimate TFP, are portrayed as "RBI jobs data" to make political statements on employment generation in the economy.

The method in India-KLEMS

India-KLEMS borrows employment data from the PLFS, but not as absolute figures of the number of workers. The PLFS provides only the share of workers in the population, or the Worker Population Ratio (WPR). To obtain the number of workers, the WPR is multiplied with the total population. This is where the problem begins, as there is no official population figure for India after 2011.

To obtain a population estimate for the intercensal years, demographers typically interpolate population numbers from the last available Census. But here, India-KLEMS adopted a strange solution. The estimates of population in 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 were borrowed from the Economic Survey (ES), 2021-22. The ES projected these populations by assuming that population growth rates between 2001 and 2011 were the same for the years after 2011. The WPRs were multiplied by these population projections to obtain the number of workers for each corresponding year.

But for the years between 2020-21 and 2023-24, India-KLEMS used a totally different source and method. It used population projections from 2011-2036 published by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) in 2020. From the Census figures of 2011, this publication arrived at annual population projections using demographic models that factored in the Total Fertility Rates (TFR) and the mortality rates reported in the Sample Registration System (SRS) of 2017. The simple question is why the India-KLEMS database did not use the MoHFW's population projections for all the years after 2017-18. It appears that while the RBI adds new estimates to the series after 2022, it does not correct or update older estimates published before it began hosting the database.

There are two major issues here. Firstly, population projections from the ES and the MoHFW disregard the sharp fall in fertility rates in India over the last decade. The replacement TFR is canonically assumed to be 2.1 children per woman. However, results from the most recent National Family Health Survey (NFHS) show that India's TFR had fallen to 2.0 in 2019-21. Similarly, a 2024 study published in *The Lancet* argued that the "reference TFR values in Bangladesh and India are projected to decrease below 1.75 by 2026 and 2027, respectively". These falls in TFR are not considered in the population projections in the ES or by MoHFW.

Secondly, the population projections in and by the ES and the MoHFW are not available separately for rural and urban areas. So, the India-KLEMS managers took the national sex-wise populations, assumed population growth rates for rural and urban populations and obtained separate rural and urban population projections. However, it is well-known that India's rural population is growing at a slower rate than the urban population. Assuming uniform growth rates for both is likely to lead to an overestimation of the rural population. For these two reasons, the population figures with which the WPRs were multiplied by in India-KLEMS, and the number of workers obtained thus, are likely to be overestimates.

Shifts in employment structure

When PLFS data are readily available for analysis, one fails to understand the need to depend on India-KLEMS for a temporal analysis of employment. PLFS data show that India's WPR fell from 38.6% in 2011-12 to 34.7% in 2017-18, and then rose to 41.1% in 2022-23. The rise in overall WPR was largely due to a rise in the rural female WPR, which rose from 17.5% in 2017-18 to 30% in 2022-23. WPRs for other population segments also rose, but not as much as for rural women.

These changes are the basis for two claims of the government: one, that crores of new jobs were generated during and after the pandemic; and two, that this phenomenon was gender friendly as women occupied the jobs vacated by men in the rural workforce.

Both the claims are flawed. The rise in rural female WPR was largely due to an increase in unpaid forms of self-employment among rural women in agriculture. Between 2018-19 and 2022-23, the share of rural women employed in agriculture rose from 71.1% to 76.2%, and the share of rural women who were self-employed rose from 67.8% to 78.1%. Among female workers in agriculture, the share of those who were employed purely on a subsidiary basis (that is, those who worked only irregularly, and on a minor scale) rose from 15.6% in 2018-19 to 27.7% in 2022-23. And within all subsidiary employment in agriculture, the share of unpaid family work was about 65% in 2022-23.

But a rise in unpaid subsidiary work can show up as higher WPRs for women. When these rising WPRs are multiplied on with an increasing projected population, we obtain a steady rise in the total number of workers. Even if the WPRs were constant, one would have obtained a rise in the number of workers because of the increase in the projected population. This is what we see in the projected workforce figures in India-KLEMS. In short, there was little expansion of meaningful and paid employment in India after 2017-18. The departure of men from agriculture hardly changed the status of rural working women.

The ASUSE comparison

This leaves us with one outstanding matter – the SBI report's claim that the number of workers in India-KLEMS and ASUSE 2022-23 broadly match. The ASUSE covers only unincorporated non-agricultural establishments in manufacturing, trade and other services. Apart from agriculture, it explicitly excludes a range of manufacturing and trading establishments from its sampling frame. The number of workers in the unincorporated non-agricultural establishments – defined and covered as above in ASUSE – was 11 crore in 2022-23. The SBI report, however, estimates the total number of workers from ASUSE as 56.8 crore, and claims comparability with the figures in India-KLEMS.

Clearly, the SBI report assumed a certain number of workers employed in sectors not covered in ASUSE – such as agriculture, construction, registered factories, corporate sector, government and cooperatives – using other household surveys that employ different concepts and methodologies. It then added those numbers to the number of workers in ASUSE to arrive at the inflated estimate of 56.8 crore workers. But there is no scientific basis for such an indirect method, that too to make an inane and motivated validation.

To sum up, data from India-KLEMS, which was designed for very different purposes and uses questionable methods, are being used to drive a specific political narrative on employment generation. But the real culprit in this episode is the Government of India, which has refused to organise the new decadal Census till date.

The absence of accurate population figures has led analysts and institutions to use many erroneous projections based on heroic assumptions. Consequently, we end up needlessly politicising economic debates and restricting the space for reasoned studies of important trends in the Indian economy.

P. C. Mohanan is former member, National Statistical Commission and R. Ramakumar is Professor, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai.

Centre urged to clear decks for increasing Almatti dam height

Chief Minister seeks notification of the Krishna tribunal's second award; the height of the dam has to be increased to 524.25 m from 519.6 m to utilise additional allocation of water, he says

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Thanksgiving: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, flanked by Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and Large and Medium Industries Minister M.B. Patil, offering 'bagina' to the Krishna at the Almatti dam in Vijayapura district on Wednesday.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has urged the Union government to clear the decks for increasing the height of the Almatti dam by issuing a notification of the award of Justice Brijesh Kumar Krishna River Water Disputes Tribunal, enabling the riparian States to utilise additional allocation of water.

"In its second award, the tribunal has allocated us 130 tmcft of additional water. To utilise this, we need to increase the height of the dam to 524.25 metres from the present 519.6 metres. All that work, including the tasks of land acquisition, rehabilitation, and resettlement, is estimated to cost around ₹1 lakh crore. We plan to spend this money at around ₹20,000 crore per year, over five years. However, the work on this can start only after the Union government issues the notification. We have already met the Prime Minister and the Ministers concerned with this request. We will meet them again," he told reporters at Almatti.

Earlier, he, accompanied by Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and Vijayapura district in-charge Minister M.B. Patil, offered *bagina* (a traditional thanksgiving) to the Krishna at the dam.

Meeting planned

He said comprehensive details of the project would be worked out after a meeting of people's representatives from all the riparian districts. "The Centre should hold a meeting of all the riparian States – Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana –to resolve differences," he said.

"Krishna water is being provided to 16.47 lakh acres of land under the allocation of 173 tmcft as per the first award. An additional 14.68 lakh acres will be covered when the second award is implemented," he said.

"We are confident that the Tungabhadra dam, which lost water due to a problem in one of its gates, will be full in the next few weeks," Mr. Siddharamaiah said.

"Due to the unfortunate incident of the damage to one of the gates, the reservoir lost around 35 tmcft of water. The total capacity of the reservoir is around 130 tmcft, but the live capacity is 105 tmcft. Now the reservoir has around 70 tmcft. If around 20 tmcft of water flows into the reservoir, it will have 95% water. That will be sufficient for irrigation," he said. He thanked the team of Kanhaiah Naidu and Irrigation Department engineers for fixing the gate. To a query on parallel dams for the Tungabhadra and Almatti that are suffering from the deposition of silt, the Chief Minister said it would be decided after a study.

High Court takes serious note of alleged kidnap, forced conversion of woman

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Observing that it is necessary to give a message to society that courts are vigilant in regulating forced illegal religious conversions and also guarding innocent, underprivileged women and children from such illegal acts, the High Court of Karnataka has denied bail to a 33-year-old man for allegedly kidnapping, sexually assaulting, and forcibly converting a 28-year-old married woman.

"It is needless to say that while considering the bail applications, the factors which are required to be considered are the nature of offences, gravity thereof and societal impact etc. In the present case, the act of inducing an innocent and poor woman and forcibly converting her to Islam is a serious development," the court observed.

Justice S. Rachaiah made these observations while dismissing a petition seeking bail filed by Rafiq of Saundatti taluk of Belagavi district. The case was registered under various provisions, including kidnap and rape, of the Indian Penal Code, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, and the Karnataka Protection of Right to Freedom of Religion Act, 2022.

Court denies bail to 33-year-old accused from Saundatti taluk of Belagavi district

The petitioner-accused had started visiting the victim woman, who belongs to a Scheduled Caste, when she was partially managing her mother-in-law's small shop during lunch break and tried to become close to her by making a promise of getting a job for her, the court noted. Later, the accused managed to get the victim's mobile number through her neighbour and started frequently calling her about job offers, and over a period of time he forced her to sexual acts on the pretext of taking her to certain places for getting a job.

The accused had threatened her that he would make her photos viral if she made any attempt to join her husband and two children. Her movements with the accused had impacted her family life, resulting in her temporarily shifting to her parents' house. Later, the accused had forcibly taken her to Belagavi and confined her in a house by posting a woman as a guard to keep a vigil on her.

It was during her confinement that the accused forced her to convert to Islam and forced her to follow Islamic religious rituals daily. After some time, the victim managed to escape from his clutches, returned to her house, and narrated the incident to her husband's family, resulting in the lodging of a complaint in April against the petitioner-accused and other persons.

BJP to hold protests in district centres against 'insult to Governor by Cong. leaders'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Opposition BJP will hold protests at all the district centres of the State on Thursday against the "insult" being meted out to the Governor allegedly by Congress leaders through personal attacks.

Announcing this at a press conference here, BJP State general secretary V. Sunil Kumar said the protesters would also demand the resignation of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in the wake of the Governor granting sanction to conduct an inquiry against him over the alleged irregularities in the allotment of sites by the Mysuru Urban Development Authority.

He said all leaders of the BJP, including the members of the State core committee, State and district office-bearers, MPs, legislators, and former elected representatives would participate in the protest.

He alleged that Congress leaders during their protest against the granting of the sanction for prosecution against the Chief Minister had insulted the Governor by burning his effigy. Apart from this, several leaders, including Ministers B.Z. Zameer Ahmed and Krishna Byre Gowda and MLC Ivan D'Souza had issued objectionable statements against the Governor, he said. Accusing the Congress leaders of issuing provocative statements, he urged the police to book cases against them.

Meanwhile, the BJP also sought the resignation of Urban Development Minister Byrathi Suresh, accusing him of trying to cover up the irregularities with respect to the allotment of sites by MUDA.

SIT sought nod for my prosecution only after I started attacking Cong. govt.: Kumaraswamy

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Displaying documents: Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy at a press meet in Bengaluru on Wednesday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Union Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries H.D. Kumaraswamy on Wednesday alleged that the Congress government was only trying to settle political scores with him by getting the Lokayukta SIT to file a report against him before the Governor seeking permission for prosecution just because he had launched an attack against it. He also alleged that his signature had been forged on a mining lease document.

At a press conference here, Mr. Kumaraswamy said: "The Lokayukta report against me was sent to the Governor in November last year seeking permission for prosecution only after I started attacking the Congress government on a host of issues, particularly corruption. The Governor, after studying it, said there was some controversy regarding the signature on the file and directed the SIT to once again go through the case.

Long silence

Questioning as to why the Congress government was raising the issue now after being silent for such a long time, the Union Minister alleged that Congress leaders were not able to digest the fact that he is part of the Union Cabinet now. "How long does it take for the Lokayukta SIT to investigate? I approached the court in 2014. Did they need this long to investigate? They have taken not only my signature but also my handwriting to verify the amended order document. Let them get it investigated anywhere they want and get a report from any laboratory," Mr. Kumaraswamy, who is also the JD(S) State president, said.

"Don't you think that I could have closed the case against me in 2018 when I was the Chief Minister? he said.

'Not my signature'

Asserting that it was not his signature in the Sai Venkateshwara mining lease order document, the Union Minister said: "It all happened on October 6, 2007. I do not know who signed it. I did not allot land for mining to that company; I do not know who committed the fraud. I realised only after learning that an officer had transferred ₹20 lakh from the company to his son's account," he said.

"I want to ask those who are going around claiming that they have found my signature on the document. Have you investigated if it is my signature? What have I signed? Did the SIT investigate? Does the government know what illegalities have happened? Neither the SIT nor the police discovered that ₹20 lakh had gone into the officer's son's bank account. I discovered it," he claimed.

Taking a dig at Virajpet MLA and legal adviser to the Chief Minister A.S. Ponnanna, Mr. Kumaraswamy said: "Mr. Ponnanna there are people who know the law better than you. You and some other Ministers are demanding my resignation. I will willingly resign if needed, unlike your leader (Siddaramaiah) who found fault with the Governor's permission to prosecute him and commented about the Governor in a derogatory manner. You all should be ashamed for using such words against the Governor."

No discussion on change of Chief Minister, says Parameshwara

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Home Minister G. Parameshwara on Wednesday said no discussion had been held in the Congress about changing the Chief Minister.

Dr. Parameshwara told reporters here that if there was a possibility of a change of Chief Minister, then there would be discussions about who would get an opportunity. But, as of now, no such discussion had been held, he said.

The High Court of Karnataka has granted temporary relief to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah till August 29 on complaints related to the alleged irregularities in the allotment of 14 sites by the Mysuru Urban Development Authority to his wife.

Mr. Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar would visit New Delhi and brief the party high command about the current developments, the Home Minister said.

Two-day seminar on Mahatma Gandhi

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Gandhi Smarak Nidhi, a Gandhian organisation founded in New Delhi, is holding a two-day international seminar from Saturday at Gandhi Bhavan, Kumar Park East, Bengaluru.

The seminar's theme is 'Mahatma Gandhi for the 21st century - building a global future of peace, justice, fraternity and sustainable development'. The seminar is organised to mark the 75th year of the Gandhi Smarak.

The seminar will feature six sessions - 'Gandhi, conflict resolution, and peace building'; 'Gandhi for sustainable and equitable development'; 'Gandhi, democracy, and dissent'; 'Gandhian values and the revolutionary power of technology: Is a synthesis possible'; 'Dialogue among religions for peace and harmony', and 'Gandhi, globalisation, and global governance', said Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs H.K. Patil.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will inaugurate the seminar while the former Karnataka Lokayukta N. Santosh Hegde will deliver the valedictory address.

Leprosy still a concern in State as 68 taluks are in high-burden list

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Although Karnataka is considered a low leprosy endemic State, the prevalence rate (per 10,000 population) in 16 taluks is higher than the national average of 0.6%. Overall, 68 taluks in the State fall in the high-burden list with the prevalence rate being higher than the State average of 0.33% recorded in 2023-2024 (till March).

According to data from the State Health Department, the number of taluks in the red zone on the basis of four indicators – high prevalence rate, child leprosy cases, multibacillary cases, and grade-2 disability cases – has increased from 45 in 2022-2023 to 68in 2023-2024.

While three taluks – Mangaluru in Dakshina Kannada district, Gangavati in Koppal district, and Mahadevapura in Bengaluru (BBMP) – are high on all four indicators, nine taluks have been classified under red on the basis of three indicators, 30 taluks with two indicators, and 26 with one of the four indicators.

Overall, six zones of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) – Mahadevapura, Bengaluru South, Bengaluru East, Bengaluru West, R.R. Nagar, and Bommanahalli – fall in the red zone and officials attribute this to migration. "Many would have moved to the city for work or after getting diagnosed to avoid treatment in their home towns due to stigma," Rekha S., State Joint Director (Leprosy), told *The Hindu*.

Of the 15 districts – Yadgir, Vijayanagara, Koppal, Uttara Kannada, Chamarajanagar, Bidar, Ballari, Belagavi, Chickballapur, Chitradurga, Dakshina Kannada, Davangere, Gadag, Haveri, and Raichur – that are of concern (with a prevalence rate that is higher than the State average), Uttara Kannada, Koppal, and Ballari have recorded a prevalence rate that is higher than the national average.

Prevalence rate

National average: **0.6%**

Karnataka's average in 2023-24: **0.33%**

Districts with higher prevalence rate than national average: **Uttara Kannada, Koppal, and Ballari**

Highest prevalence rate: **Koppal (0.87%)**

Lowest prevalence rate: Hassan **(0.04%)** and Chikkamagaluru **(0.06%)**

Multibacillary cases

While the number of new cases detected every year has come down considerably in the last 10 years, the percentage of multibacillary (infectious) leprosy cases among the new cases detected every year is on the rise. Multibacillary leprosy is a more severe form of the disease.

While 71% of the total 2,724 cases detected in 2019-2020 were multibacillary cases, the percentage rose to 77.7 and 80 in 2020-2021 and 2021-2022, respectively. Subsequently, the percentage of multibacillary cases marginally dropped to 79.8% in 2022-2023 and 78% in 2023-2024.

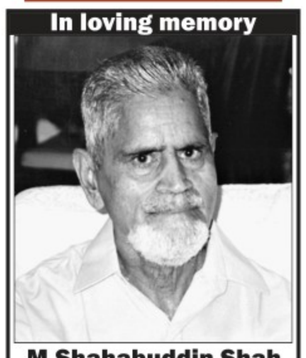
Likewise, the rate of deformity has also been on the rise. While it was 2.5% in 2019-2020, it rose to 2.6% and 2.89% in 2020-2021 and 2021-2022, respectively. This rate increased to 3.65% in 2022-2023 and 3.64% in 2023-2024.

Of the total 2,634 new cases detected in Karnataka from April 2023 to March 2024 – all of whom have been put under treatment – 100 are children.

Pointing out that Karnataka is one of the better performing States in the country, Dr. Rekha said a leprosy case detection campaign was held in 12 districts (with a high prevalence rate) from July 29 to August 14.

Chandrika B.R., State Deputy Director (Leprosy), said the multi-drug therapy that is being used to treat patients is very effective and the success rate is over 90% if patients adhere to the treatment protocol. "We have intensified awareness in North Karnataka districts, where people are hesitant to get screened mainly due to stigma," she said.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE
REMEMBRANCE
In loving memory



M.Shahabuddin Shah
10.01.1919 - 22.08.2011
"Indeed we belong to Allah, and indeed we towards Him will return."
Quran 2: 156
Fondly remembered By
Family and Friends

LOKNITI-CSDS

On the politics of faith: analysing the sensibilities behind the Kanwar Yatra

Given the sheer number of pilgrims that undertake the Kanwar Yatra, governments make every effort to cater to them. At the same time, the close political link between the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Kanwariyas cannot be ignored

Lokniti-CSDS team

In the month of August, streets and highways across Delhi were filled with the vibrant saffron clad figures of Kanwariyas, carrying bamboo poles and pitchers filled with water from the sacred river of Ganga. The Kanwar Yatra, a pilgrimage undertaken annually by lakhs of Shiva devotees, has largely been a peaceful event. However, this year was marked by significant escalation in violence, vandalism and physical assault by Kanwariyas across various States, with at least 11 such reported incidents. These include the attack on a Sikh school bus in Haryana's Fatehabad, the assault of a Muslim man in Uttar Pradesh's Meerut and the forced entry into a female bathing area at a religious place in Rajasthan's Jhunjhunu, amongst others.

The Lokniti-CSDS conducted a survey of 1,029 Kanwariyas to explore their backgrounds, and experiences during their religious pilgrimage.

A journey of faith

The Kanwar Yatra, a pilgrimage undertaken annually by lakhs of Shiva devotees, has largely been a peaceful event. However, this year was marked by significant escalation in violence by Kanwariyas across various States

Table 1: Most pilgrims are accompanied by friends or family, 16% go alone

	(%)
Friends	57
Family members	24
Alone	16

Note: The rest either travelled with persons from their caste/community, neighbours or with people they met during the course of the pilgrimage

Question asked: *Who is accompanying you in the Kanwar Yatra?*

Table 2: One-fifth of devotees support intoxication

Preferred activities during Yatra	(%)
Playing loud music	79
Intoxication	19
Alone	16

Note: The rest did not support such activities or did not respond

Question asked: *Some Kanwariyas do the above activities during the journey to express their happiness, do you support intoxication?*

Table 3: Overwhelming support for the govt. order to write the names of shopkeepers on their outlets

Opinion	(%)
In favour of the order	79
Do not support the order	17

Note: The rest did not know | ***Question asked:*** *Do you think the order to shopkeepers to write their names on their shops or carts is right or wrong?*

Table 4: Importance attached to the identity of the shopkeeper while buying food

Identity of shop-keeper	The extent to which identity matters to pilgrims while buying food		
	Important	Somewhat important	Not important
Religion	34	14	50
Caste	18	12	69

Note: The rest did not respond. | ***Question asked:*** *Does the religion/caste of the shopkeeper from whom you are buying food items matter to you?*

Table 5: The dietary habits of Yatris and their support for the government order

		Opinion about order	
	Overall	In favour	Against it
Completely vegetarian	51	79	16
Eggetarian	14	91	8
Non-vegetarian	34	71	25

Note: All figures are in per cent. The rest either did not respond or gave other responses | ***Question asked:*** *Are you vegetarian or non-vegetarian? Do you think that the order to shopkeepers to write their names on their shops or carts is right or wrong?*

Table 6: Most pilgrims could avail facilities provided by the government

Facilities availed by pilgrims	(%)
Arrangements to take rest	90
Drinking water facility	89
Food and refreshments	88
Medical facility	87
Alternate route for commuting	86
Crowd control arrangement	82
Restroom facility	65

Note: The rest either could not avail the facilities or did not know about them. | ***Question asked:*** *The government has provided some facilities to the Kanwariyas, tell me if you could avail the above facilities?*

Table 7: Majority of the pilgrims were satisfied with the facilities provided by the government

Level of satisfaction	(%)
Completely satisfied	61
Somewhat satisfied	26
Somewhat unsatisfied	8
Completely unsatisfied	5

Note: The rest did not respond
Question asked: *Overall, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with these facilities?*

Table 8: The facilities sought by pilgrims

	(%)
Toilets	52
Diversion of traffic	42
Safety and security	41
Resting facilities	39
Food and water supply	36
Medical facilities	24
Complaints centre	15
Special arrangements for disabled, elderly etc.	12
Any other	12
Facilities for religious rituals and ceremonies	7
Information booths and sign boards	6

Note: The rest did not respond. Respondents were allowed to give more than one response.
Question asked: *What kind of facilities do you want from the government for Kanwar pilgrims?*

Who are the Kanwariyas?

While the pilgrimage is open to all, men make up the majority of the Kanwariyas. 95% of the surveyed participants were men, and only 5% were women. Female pilgrims face unique challenges. One in every five respondents (22%) believe that women should not participate in this Yatra, citing concerns about women's safety (62%), health issues and menstruation (13%). About one in 10 also reported that women distract and slow the pace of the journey.

Kanwariyas come from diverse backgrounds. Surprisingly, devotees with a graduate degree are twice as likely to join the pilgrimage compared to those without formal education (16% vs 8%). The majority of participants hail from lower- and middle-class backgrounds (27%), with their involvement slightly higher than that of both the most underprivileged (23%) and the more affluent groups (22%). The Yatra saw significant participation from marginalised communities, with Dalits and OBCs making up 22% and 21% of the interviewed devotees, respectively. Upper-caste devotees also form a significant portion, with about one-third devotees belonging to this group.

Walking remains the most popular mode of travel, with about eight in 10 devotees covering the route by foot. Others use cycles or motorcycles, truck/tempos, shared vehicles or a car.

Social connections are integral to the pilgrimage. Over half of the devotees were accompanied by their friends (57%), whereas another quarter journeyed with their families. Only 16% were travelling alone (Table 1). The Yatra can also be financially demanding. While 90% are able to manage their expenses, the rest reach out to their family or friends for assistance. About one-third (30%) indicated that bearing the financial expense is difficult for them.

Why do they do it?

The Kanwariyas were asked about their motivations for undertaking this pilgrimage. A majority of the devotees cited religious or spiritual reasons, viewing the offering of sacred water to Lord Shiva as a means to gain divine blessings. A substantial portion also indicated that they went entirely for company and personal enjoyment. A few devotees participated to fulfil a vow while some others were driven by family or community engagements.

The Yatra also serves as a social and celebratory event, with participants engaging in loud music and, in some cases, intoxication. While 79% of the devotees support the practice of playing loud music, one fifth (19%) also believe that celebrating via intoxication is acceptable during the journey (Table 2).

On the politics of the Yatra

Last month, the Uttar Pradesh police directed eateries along the route of the ongoing Kanwar Yatra to display names of their owners and staff. This was followed by similar directions from the Uttarakhand police and the Ujjain Municipal Corporation. A number of vague but seemingly neutral reasons had been cited by the agencies for issuing such orders. The Supreme Court subsequently stayed the implementation of these orders. However, as many as 79% of the pilgrims feel that the step taken by the respective governments was correct (Table 3). This response opens up many questions about the complex issues surrounding the nature of religiosity and the political side of the pilgrimage.

Though a majority supported the move to have the names of the shop owners identified, a large number of respondents stated that the religious or caste identity of the vendor is not important for them when buying food (Table 4). Of course, a considerable section of the pilgrims are particular about knowing the social identity of those from who they buy food. For three in 10 (30%) respondents, the caste of the shopkeeper is important and for more than four in 10 (46%), religion of the shopkeeper is important. Such an attitude arises out of the dietary habits of the pilgrims. Half of those (51%) undertaking the Kanwar Yatra are completely vegetarian while another 14% are eggetarians. Non-vegetarian food is consumed by 34% of the pilgrims (Table 5). Support for the government order is higher among vegetarians with 79% complete vegetarians and 91% eggetarians endorsing it. A relatively lesser proportion of non-vegetarians (71%) have a similar opinion.

Additionally, as many as 84% of the respondents feel that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has done the most for those undertaking the Kanwar Yatra. Given the sheer number of pilgrims that undertake the Kanwar Yatra, governments make every effort to cater to them. This is both out of legitimate responsibility as well as due to political reasons. At the same time, however, the close political link between the BJP and the Kanwariyas cannot be ignored. When asked which party they feel close to, the answers of the Kanwariyas were quite one-sided. An overwhelming majority of 74% of the pilgrims have an inclination for the BJP. This close connection with the BJP makes the Yatra an important political event.

On facilities along the Yatra

This controversial order apart, governments generally have gone a long way in looking after the interests of the Yatris and to make arrangements for the convenience of those participating in the Kanwar Yatra. Nearly 90% of the pilgrims have availed various facilities provided by the government (Table 6). It indicates the extent of the outreach by the government and the dependence of the Yatra on official patronage.

Pilgrims are generally satisfied with these arrangements made by the government. 61% were completely satisfied and only a small proportion of the pilgrims were unsatisfied (Table 7). Those who undertook the Kanwar Yatra previously are also impressed by the steps taken by the government this year. 58% pilgrims hold that more facilities have been provided this year compared to the last two years. 17% feel that facilities are more or less like before.

Despite extensive support by the government, the Kanwariyas expect more. 52% of the pilgrims expect the government to do more with regard to toilet facilities (Table 8). 42% want the government to divert traffic from the route of the pilgrimage more effectively. Beside these, a considerable proportion of the pilgrims seek improvements in safety and security measures (41%), resting facilities (39%) and food and water supply (36%), among other things.

The following were part of the team. Suhas Palshikar is chief editor of Studies in Indian Politics. Devesh Kumar and Vibha Attri are researchers at Lokniti-CSDS. Sandeep Shastri is Director-Academics, NITTE Education Trust and the national coordinator of the Lokniti Network, Abhinav Pankaj Borbora and Jyoti Mishra are researchers at Lokniti-CSDS.

To read more, please go to thehindu.com or scan this link bit.ly/thehinducom.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Hello, you goldbrick."

"Don't call me a goldbrick. You told me last week that a goldbrick is a lazy person. And I'm certainly not lazy."

"But you like gold, don't you?"

"Not any more. I've realised that not all words which have "gold" in them have a golden meaning."

"All that glitters is not gold, eh?"

"Yes. While we are on the subject of gold, what's this "golden handshake" we hear about so often these days?"

You haven't even got a job so far. Why are you so worried about the golden handshake?"

"I'm not worried about it. I'd just like to know what it is."

"Well, a golden handshake is actually a large sum of money given to an employee when he/she retires."

"Who gives the money?"

"The company that the employee works for. A golden handshake is a kind of reward for the long service and good work put in by an employee."

"I see. So when my father retires at 60, he'll be given the golden handshake."

"Perhaps. And what our Prime Minister said some time ago is that any government employee who takes voluntary retirement will be given the golden handshake."

"You mean people are actually going to be paid a lot of money for retiring early?"

"Yes. The golden handshake is also known as the "golden goodbye."

"Golden goodbye, eh? I suppose it's called that because you say goodbye to your career. But before you say goodbye, you normally say hello. So, is there a "golden hello" as well?"

"Strangely enough, there is."

"I knew it. What does it mean?"

"Well, the "golden hello" is the opposite of the "golden goodbye" in the sense that you don't leave a company, but join one. It is actually a large sum of money paid to someone for joining a company."

"So when top people leave one company and join another, a golden hello is involved."

"It must be. Otherwise, why would they change companies?"

"That's true. How can we prevent this from happening?"

"Prevent what from happening?"

"You know, prevent people from leaving one company and joining another."

"What would you do if you were the chairman of a company?"

"Well, if I heard that some bright chap was leaving my company, I'd pay him a lot of money to stay on with us."

"Excellent. And that's what many big companies do. They make a large payment to an employee so that he continues to work for the company."

"Is there a name for this?"

"Yes. It's called the 'golden handcuff'."

"Golden handcuffs? But aren't handcuffs the things that are put on people who have been arrested?"

"Yes. So when you put the golden handcuffs on someone, you prevent him from running away from your company."

"I have no company. I have only you as company."

Published in The Hindu on February 16, 1993.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

A quiz on the city of Chennai on the occasion of Madras day

Venkataraghavan. S

QUESTION 1
The Sri Kanyaka Parameswari Arts and Science College for Women replaced this iconic location. Name the place. Hint: People who were there are now at Koyambedu and there is a Tamil Song by Deva on them!

QUESTION 2
The State Government has announced that it would be launching an Independence Day Museum that will house memorabilia from the freedom struggle, a gallery for women freedom fighters and a digital museum for lesser-known freedom fighters. Where is it going to be housed?

QUESTION 3
What did Krishna Rao, a native of Udupi who started as a dish washer and then climbed up to become a restaurateur, start up at Royapettah on land that he leased from the Sethupathi Raja of Ramnad?

QUESTION 4
How do we now know "The Pudupet Maidan" where in 1954, the then Inspector-General of Police, V.R. Rajarathinam, decide to move the annual police sports meet?

QUESTION 5
By what names are the twin hamlets that are in between Mylapore and Long Tank now known as?

Visual question:
Name this short stretch of road, arguably the most beautiful architectural stretch of "Madras" that goes south from NSC Bose Road and ends at the intersection of Sir T. Muthuswami Aiyar and North Fort Roads. FILE PHOTO

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. This American jazz musician was born on August 21 in 1904. **Ans: Count Basie**
2. This country declared its independence from the Soviet Union on August 21, 1991. **Ans: Latvia**
3. This U.S. State became the 50th State of America in 1959. **Ans: Hawaii**
4. This Disney animated film was released on August 21 in the U.S. in 1942. **Ans: *Bambi***
5. This Indian musician credited with popularising the 'shehnai' died in 2006. **Ans: Bismillah Khan**
6. This Indian-American theoretical physicist was awarded the 1983 Nobel Prize in physics along with William A. Fowler. **Ans: Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar**
Visual: The connection between this painting and August 21. **Ans: On this day, the Mona Lisa was stolen from the Louvre by three people, and was recovered two years later**
Early Birds: Tamal Biswas| K.N.Viswanathan| Joseph Nelson| Varghese Joseph| Tahura Shaikh

Word of the day

Impugn:
attack as false or wrong

Synonym: challenge

Usage: *He impugned his rival's character*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/impugnpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ɪmˈpjuːn/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Bengaluru's community halls: Essential and affordable spaces hard to come by

BBMP community halls, which could serve as affordable spaces for private and public functions, are either not to be found in most localities or are in a bad shape

Yemen S.
BENGALURU

BBMP hall which is yet to be opened up to the public, on Old Guddadahalli Road, next to a graveyard. K. MURALI KUMAR

A Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP)-owned community hall in Jayanagar 9th Block, East End, appears all ready for use, but has not been formally opened for public use for close to four years. The residents have no clue why.

Dr. Saravana S., a local resident, says that the hall, which could serve the public for many purposes at an affordable price, is being used by some people at night to consume alcohol, as a parking lot for car owners in the surrounding areas and has become a public toilet throughout the day.

"The BBMP spent close to ₹3.5 crores to build the community hall. When we recently questioned why there was a delay, they claimed that a sum of ₹10 lakh was required for some additional work, and it would open after that. We wrote letters to the Chief Minister, the BBMP commissioners in charge of the zone, and the MLA asking when the hall will be opened, but we have got no response so far," Saravana narrates.

Similar stories across

This is not an isolated case, with community halls meant to be maintained by the BBMP in several areas being either non-existent, standing incomplete or falling into disuse. For example, two community halls built many decades ago were demolished in order to give the area a new and well-equipped community hall in Pulikeshinagar and Jogupalya two years ago.

Residents of Jogupalya, Halasuru, Murphy Town, Pulikeshi Nagar, Cox Town, Kallahalli, and the surrounding areas were initially delighted when the civic authorities demolished the old buildings and started constructing new ones. However, despite the construction of the new community halls commencing two years ago, progress has remained frustratingly slow.

Srinivasa B., a resident of Pulikeshi Nagar says, "There are no community halls in the Cox Town area, forcing poor and lower-middle-class families to spend extra money on private venues for weddings and birthday celebrations. If the BBMP authorities could urge the contractor to speed up construction, it would greatly benefit these families. It would provide much-needed support to economically weaker families from Shivajinagar, Pulikeshi Nagar, and C.V. Raman Nagar assembly constituencies."

Thippeswamy, the executive engineer in charge of the construction of the Pulikeshinagar community hall, says the hall will be ready for public in the next six months. "Work on the basement and ground floor is completed. Currently, the stress examination is happening to check the stability of the other floors. What is pending is the construction of compound wall, parking lot etc. There is a delay due to rains and the curing process must be completed," he adds.

On the other hand, Munireddy, the executive engineer in charge of the construction of the Jogupalya community hall, says work has been halted due to delays by the contractor. "The contractor has not met our needs, and there has been a delay from their side. We recently had a meeting on this and have decided to issue an order to the contractor and cancel the tender. We plan to call for new tenders, which will take time. It will take at least a year or more for the work to be completed," he says.

Reasons unclear

While in these two instances at least there is some clarity on the authority to be approached, even that is hazy in the case of Jayanagar 9th Block community hall. "The BBMP completed the hall in 2020 on time as promised. It was said that a corporator would inaugurate the hall. Since the BBMP elections have not happened for a long time, we have had no corporators too. Another issue is that in our constituency when the elected MLA is from the Congress party the ruling party is the BJP, and vice versa. So, no party is ready to take up the responsibility," says Saravana.

When Mahantesh Buranpur, the zonal executive engineer (EE) for projects in the South zone was questioned regarding the delay, the officer said that he was new to the zone and asked *The Hindu* to contact the previous EE, Vijay Kumar, who said he was unaware of the exact reason for the delay in the inauguration of the hall. "The construction part of the hall is completed, there is an office room downstairs. The zonal commissioner and other officials have to call for a meeting and decide on when to open the hall," he said.

On the other hand, there are no BBMP-maintained community halls in several areas. Mamatha Rao, a resident of A.G.S Layout, says there are no such halls in their vicinity or surrounding areas. "Most of the areas in this vicinity are developing layouts, but are not new areas. The BBMP is very indifferent to areas on the outskirts. For those who live in A.G.S. Layout, Uttarahalli, Subramanyapura, or Turahalli, there are no community halls to conduct small gatherings or community building activities. Of course, most apartments in the area have their own halls, but for individual residences there is not a place to gather," she says.

A desperate need

There is no doubt that a rapidly urbanising city like Bengaluru needs multifunctional community spaces spread across localities to cater to a wide range of needs, from hosting family functions and weddings to serving as sites for social gatherings, cultural events, and public meetings. As Bengaluru's population grows and its neighbourhoods become more densely packed, the availability of accessible and affordable community halls is crucial.

But while there are very many private and expensive halls that cost anywhere from ₹1 lakh to ₹5 lakh that are available in the city, unfortunately, there are very few affordable halls that charge between ₹5,000 to ₹10,000, depending on the seating capacity, that are looked after by the city civic authorities and are within the reach of middle class and lower middle-class communities.

How many community halls really exist in Bengaluru?

Exactly how many community halls exist in Bengaluru that are constructed and maintained by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP)? Shockingly, no BBMP official The Hindu reached out to could give an accurate number. One BBMP officer claimed that a couple of years ago there were at least 15 community halls looked after by the BBMP. However, now there maybe not be more than five or six, he said.

BBMP Commissioner Tushar Girinath said the BBMP currently does not have an exact count because though it falls under the Estate section of the BBMP, it is looked after by the zonal offices in each zone. "The halls are being revamped and new ones are being constructed. We will have an accurate knowledge of the number of halls soon, as we are planning on when to open the revamped and new community halls, and also putting up a structure on the cost of the community halls. Though they are already affordable, we plan to give a concession for people under various categories," said Girinath.

Igus, German motion plastics firm invests ₹100 crore in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Igus, a German motion plastics (moving parts made of plastic that are designed to improve movement and reduce costs) company, has invested ₹100 crore to set up a 92,000 sq.ft. manufacturing plant in Mandur near Budigere in Bengaluru.

The company on Wednesday said the investment was part of its move to fortify its footprint in the Indian market, as it prepared to focus on semiconductor and renewable energy, areas poised for substantial growth. The expansion was part of Igus's long-term strategy to enhance its operational capabilities and support its extensive customer base in the country, said the company.

Deepak Paul, Managing Director of Igus India, said, "The Indian market presents tremendous potential for Igus. Our objective is to deliver cutting-edge products and solutions not only to our customers in India but also on a global scale. Igus's global focus on cost-sensitive and sustainable solutions, encapsulated in our motto 'Tech up, cost down,' is perfectly aligned with the Indian approach to technology and innovation."

Igus India has doubled its market growth, with revenue figures climbing from ₹199 crores to ₹313 crores

Market growth

Over the past two years, Igus India has doubled its market growth, with revenue figures climbing from ₹199 crores to ₹313 crores. The company expects this upward trajectory to continue, projecting a revenue of ₹340 crores for 2024.

"With a catalogue of 125,000 parts and 247 new products introduced this year, we are constantly inspired by our customers' needs to push the boundaries of what is possible," said Santhosh Jacob, Country Manager and Director of Igus India, added. Motion plastics are used across industry sectors in the areas of energy supply systems, cables, bearing technology, linear technology, bar stock, 3D printing, etc.

AAI customer survey: Belagavi and Hubballi see drop in customer satisfaction index

The Belagavi airport secured negative points on parameters like value for money, parking facilities, waiting time in check-in queue/line, and ease of finding your way through airport

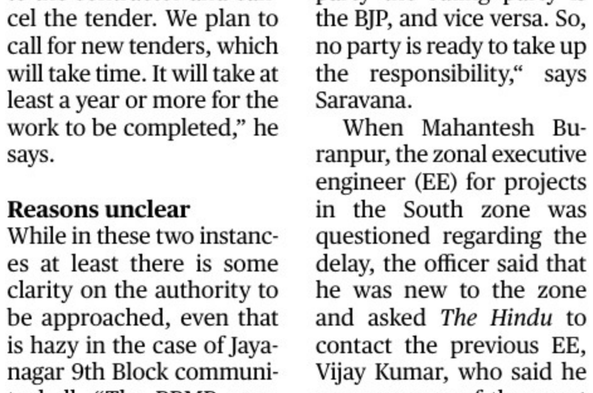
The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

While some of the Airport Authority of India (AAI)-run airports in the State have dropped in the customer satisfaction Index of Airports for Round I 2024 compared with previous Round II 2023, a couple have climbed up in the rankings.

Two airports, Belagavi and Hubballi, which had been ranked among the top five airports in the previous customer satisfaction survey (Round -II 2023 vis-a-vis Round-I 2023), have dropped to 11th and 16th positions respectively.

In the AAI's Customer Satisfaction Index of Airports for Round -II 2023 vis-a-vis Round-I 2023, Belagavi airport secured the fourth spot and the Hubballi airport the fifth spot.

Kalaburagi and Mysuru airports which had secured 29th and 22nd positions respectively in the previous survey have improved their ranks in the latest survey by bagging the 12th and 13th ranks respectively.



Mysuru airport's ranking rose from 4.69 in the previous survey to 4.7 this time. FILE PHOTO

33 parameters

The survey takes into account 33 parameters including ground transportation to/from airport, parking facilities, availability of baggage carts trolleys, waiting time in check-in queue/line, efficiency of check-in staff, courtesy and helpfulness of check-in staff, thoroughness of security inspection, value for money of restaurant/eating facilities, comfort of waiting/gate areas, internet access/Wi-Fi, among others.

In addition, five questions related to hygiene (added because of the pandemic) are also part of the survey.

The Belagavi airport secured a score of 4.73 in the customer satisfaction index in the latest survey as against 4.97 in the previous survey. The Hubballi airport which had secured a score of 4.95 in the previous survey has secured a score of 4.67. Kalaburagi and Mysuru airports which have improved their ranking had scored 4.53 and 4.69 in the previous survey. During the latest survey their scores are 4.72 and 4.7 respectively.

58 airports

A total of 58 airports were part of the survey with the Rajahmundry airport leading the table with a score of 5 on the index.

The Belagavi airport secured negative points on parameters like value for money, parking facilities, waiting time in check-in queue/line, ease of finding your way through airport, walking distance inside the terminal, value for money in restaurant/eating facilities, value for money in shopping facilities, internet access/Wi-Fi, cleanliness of washrooms/toilets and speed of baggage delivery.

The Hubbali airport secured negative points on 16 parameters. Both the Belagavi airport and Hubballi airports secured negative points in all five questions related to hygiene.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 22, 1974

Governor Suggests New Designs for Houses in Low-Lying Areas

Mangalore, Aug. 21. The Governor of Karnataka, Mr. Mohanlal Sukhadia, after visiting the flood-affected areas in Puttur, Bantwal, and Mangalore taluks told pressmen last evening that he had directed PWD engineers to draw designs for stronger houses to rehabilitate farmers who lost their houses during the recent floods. He said that since agriculturists were not willing to move from their fields the designs for houses in low-lying areas should be different from those in elevated places. Mr. Sukhadia also announced a donation of Rs. 10,000 from the Governor's Emergency Relief Fund. Mr. Sukhadia made it clear that the Government would not tolerate unauthorised encroachment of lands whether Government or private.

Cinematograph Rules Being Amended

Bangalore, Aug. 21: The Chief Minister, Mr. Devaraj Urs informed the Legislative Council to-day that the Cinematograph Rules were being amended to ensure construction of theatres by the Karnataka Film Development Corporation using cement.

Answering a question from Mrs. Sarojini Thimme Gowda, (Cong-O), the Chief Minister said that the cost of each theatre would be about Rs. 1.5 lakhs. He said there was no change in the plans and the programme of the Karnataka Film Development Corporation for constructing 200 mini theatres in different parts of the State and assured that the Government would provide sufficient funds to this purpose.

Parva: A new dimension to the Mahabharata

Actor, director and theatre practitioner Prakash Belawadi, talks about the challenges he faced to adapt SL Bhyrappa's *Parva* for the stage

Shilpa Anandraj

Another point of view Stills from previous presentations of *Parva*. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Dr SL Bhyrappa's Parva will be staged in English this weekend in Bengaluru. The book is adapted for stage and directed by Prakash Belwadi. It has live music by Ravi Murur and troupe, costumes by Prasad Bidapa and sets by Shashidhar Adapa.

Prakash started his career in theatre. He comes from a family of theatre practitioners. His mother, Bhargavi and father, Make up Nani, were theatre artistes. "I took to theatre at the age of 15 and never left it, despite films and television," says Prakash.

"I just returned from doing 28 shows of an Australian play and will soon head to the US for a 20-day show. I turned to cinema and web series, to keep doing theatre and sustaining myself. The credit also goes to my wife, Chandrika, for supporting me."

Parva, Prakash says, was originally performed in Kannada at Mysore Rangayana, as an eight-hour play and it received a standing ovation. The English adaptation will be staged by the Centre for Film and Drama in five acts with four intervals. The Centre of Film and Drama was started in 2004. "We are hoping to travel abroad with this play. We are a small amateur theatre group and wanted to celebrate our 20th anniversary with this work."

> *Parva* presents a woman's voice and her anger at the injustice by men in their lives. I would not call it feminist as that has various connotations and is about equal rights. The woman's voice in *Parva* asks for Dharma.
>
> **PRAKASH BELWADI**
> Theatre practitioner

Parva reinterprets the *Mahabharata* and explores the tangled web of emotions, power struggles, and moral dilemmas.

Long journey

"I first read *Parva* 10 years ago in English. I immediately called Bhyrappa and sought his permission to adapt it to the stage. He was curious how I would adapt it and was worried whether I would give it a modern interpretation or politicise it. I was simultaneously amused, nervous and clueless and gave up the idea."

Prakash had directed three plays for Rangayana and Addanda Cariappa, the then director of Rangayana, asked him if he would adapt any of Bhyrappa's books for the stage. "I instantly thought of *Parva*, but they chose another of Bhyrappa's stories to adapt."

During the lockdown

Prakash adapted *Parva* for stage during the first lockdown. "Bhyrappa approved the adaptation. Bhyrappa, who has watched the play quite a few times, describes *Parva* as '20 % *Mahabharata* and 80 % his perception'. In March 2021, we announced three shows. It was a 10-and-half hour long show and I am still amazed at how the audience sat through it."

All three shows ran to full houses, says Prakash. "The audience suggested we stage an act a day. We tried that too with shows on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, but this format was not received well. The audience feedback was that they prefer to sit through and watch all the acts together. That made sense. Don't we watch one-day matches the whole day? Or binge watch web-series? So why not theatre?"

Sitting long hours for a play is not new to the Indian audience, says Prakash. "We have had *Bailaata*, which happens through the night." Despite the success, repeat shows of the Kannada version *Parva* has not been devoid of challenges.

"Most of the original actors left and we were working with a completely new cast. They watched videos of the original play for reference. Despite these challenges, Cariappa managed to stage 57 shows of *Parva*."

Parva, Prakash says, is the *Mahabharata* without miracles. "It presents a woman's voice and her anger at the injustice or the *adharma* by men in their lives. This aspect hit me hard. I would not like to call it feminist as that word has various connotations and is about equal rights. The woman's voice in *Parva* asks for Dharma. The women speak about the men and how things were not done in a harmonious or rightful manner."

Gandhari, for instance, Prakash says, rebels against her father who married her to the blind Dhritarashtra out of greed. "Kunti's anger is because she is not able to live the life she wants as she is committed to uphold the dignity of the kingdom, which keeps her bound despite her being a young widow. Draupadi attacks Arya Dharma."

Declaration of war

The play, Prakash says begins with a declaration of war. "The first act is a set-up where the characters argue on whether they should go to war and who fights for whom. The second act is about Krishna's intervention that complicates the situation, the third act questions dharma, meaning of life, death and the role of an ascetic. Then comes Eklavya's story. It may be the slowest part, but is the very heart of the play. You get to see Eklavya from a different perspective. The fourth and fifth acts focus on the war."

The eight-hour play has no blackout on stage, says Prakash. "The scenes flow into the next. Bhyrappa's writing is amazing. He has created an interesting character in Krishna and does not even spare Vyasa.

The play in English, Prakash says, will never be as poignant as it is in Kannada. "A great loss will happen in translation, and English as a language itself cannot have the tonality or the *dhwani* of Kannada, yet we made it in English as an experiment. We want this perception of the great epic to travel across the boundaries of Karnataka and showcase it to a crossover audience. It may or may not work, but one can only be daring in theatre."

The play is produced by his daughter, Meghana Belawadi and her husband, Nikhil Nanaiah. "They also managed the production. It was a massive task to pull off for all of us. We owe a huge gratitude to the audience, who made the effort to buy tickets and watch our play. This is what will keep us going."

Parva will be staged on August 24 and 25 at Prestige Centre for Performing Arts, Konankuntte. Tickets on BookMyShow

At a sparkling milestone

Ranjani Govind

Music be my guide (From left) Yathiraja Jeeyar Swami, his brother Sri Rangarajan, Anjali Sriram and Anoor Ananthakrishna Sharma. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

An ensemble of 75 musicians are slated to perform at the 75th birthday celebrations of Yathiraja Jeeyar Swami.

To be held on August 23, Yathiraja Gaana Amruthavarshini is a tribute to the pontiff of Yadugiri Yathiraj Mutt, Jeeyar, who is a renowned musician.

While speaking about the upcoming event, Jeeyar said, "My life has been a celebration of music, devotion and literature, and since Sanskrit Day is also celebrated this month, I requested the musicians to opt for compositions in Sanskrit."

Jeeyar, whose biography, *Sujana Jeevana* is also under way, adds that his foray as a lyricist was incidental.

"Once, soon after a *darshan* at Tirupathi, I was soaking in the spiritual atmosphere at the temple grounds, when my friend asked me to write a few lines. Moved by the ambience there, I wrote 'Sri Charana,' a song of surrender."

"It humbles me that ace mridangist and music composer Anoor Ananthakrishna Sharma who set quite a few of my compositions to music is helming this show."

The formative years

Jeeyar, earlier known as Tiru Swami, was born in Melkote, Karnataka on August 25, 1949, and spent his childhood listening to music and Sanskrit *prabhandas*. "My sister was a violin student and my house would be filled with songs from the radio, and my father would discuss the nuances of the ragas and composers."

After advanced Hindi, Sanskrit and music studies, he went to Mysore for his Intermediate and was mesmerised by the musical environment the Mysore Royals had nurtured and patronised there. "I enrolled at the Ayyanar College of Music for violin classes and got to see the best of yesteryear musicians from Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra perform there."

"It was magical to see sabhas brimming with yearly specials, and catch Bidaram Krishnappa perform with Mysore Vasudevachar in the audience. Or Violin Chowdiah keenly listening to Ariyakudi and the Alathur brothers' performances! It was a healthy and melodious environment."

Bengaluru calling

Later on, Jeeyar enrolled for his B.Com at MES College in Malleswaram, Bangalore. After securing his degree in 1969, he has been associated with spiritual and cultural events for through various institutions. "When I came to Bangalore, the best thing to happen to be me was to be taken under the wing of well-known vocalist Chintalapalli Ramachandra Rao. He taught me 'Deva Deva Kalayaamide' in Mayamalavagowla which still remains one of my favorites."

Jeeyar Swami never performed but started a lot of music institutions where performances were encouraged. He was also associated with Adarsha, ISKCON Krishna Kalakshetra, Ramanuja Kalakshetra and now as the pontiff of Yathiraja Mutt he continues to do the same.

"Music has to be a pursuit, and I believe we must constantly shadow it to reach a space of comfort," says the eternal student, who recently enrolled in an online music workshop on Swati Tirunal compositions conducted by Shankaran Namboodiri.

Yathiraja Gaana Amruthavarshini will be held at Chowdiah Memorial Hall on August 23 from 5pm. Entry free)

Praveen S

Universal muse Kamakshi Khanna. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A journey through modern love

In a 2021 interview, the Grammy-winning English singer-songwriter Adele said the best advice she had ever received was: "Keep your heart safe and your music dangerous." These words became a guiding mantra for another young musician thousands of miles away. For Kamakshi Khanna in Mumbai, 2020 was tempestuous; it was a crucible from which her songwriting emerged, raw and potent. During this time, through her lockdown music series, Green Room Sessions, she began to unravel the complexities of love, loss, and the tumultuous journey of her twenties. Adele's words did something within her.

Her lockdown series gave birth to her sophomore EP, *Heartbreak 2020*, which, in her words, "dives deep into the chaos of modern loneliness."

Each song, she says, is a raw, real-life account of the various situationships and relationships she navigated through her 20s. "From awkward dates and mind games to short-term flings and unrequited love to still finding a sliver of hope, there is something in there for everyone."

After the EP was released this June, Kamakshi is preparing to take it for a multi-city live tour, starting with Bengaluru on August 23.

"I'm excited to go on my own tour after performing for so long. What I'm looking forward to most is connecting with the audience. Performing live is a powerful way to connect with people personally. Sharing the stage with my incredibly talented band is another highlight."

With a background in both Hindustani and Western classical music, Kamakshi blends pop, R&B, and folk influences into her music. Her first Hindi single, 'Qareeb', in 2020, has close to two million views on YouTube and over a million audio streams across platforms. Her performances at major music festivals and growing fan base solidify her position as a rising star in the Indie music scene.

With *Heartbreak 2020*, Kamakshi dives headfirst into a realm of raw emotion. "Every song on that EP is undeniably sad," she admits. Yet, she is quick to point out that the project is more than just a wallow in despair. "I wanted to present heartbreak in a different light... to have fun with it," she says.

This duality is evident in the music videos and arrangements, which are upbeat and vibrant, contrasting the sombre lyrics. Take 'Love Is Not A...' for instance. The lyrics paint a portrait of heartbreak: "broke down your walls as you built up mine gave you my trust and my precious time when you wanted it but only when you wanted it."

The music video, however, is a playful subversion, featuring Kamakshi in whimsical costumes inspired by iconic video games like Super Mario and Tomb Raider.

Though Kamakshi finds this creative process therapeutic, she is also clear about its limitations. "It cannot be a replacement for actual therapy. When making a song, you're decorating your emotions and experiences to make them appealing. It helps me process my feelings and come to terms with things, but the real work happens in therapy."

Kamakshi's songwriting process is as diverse as the emotions she explores. "Sometimes I'm in the thick of an emotion and write about it immediately," she says. 'Love is Not A...' is an example of this raw immediacy. Not every song, however, is birthed in such a fiery moment. "Other times, I write about past experiences as a way to process them. Some songs are even born from completely imagined scenarios."

Once a song is finished, it undergoes a transformation. "It stops being about the specific person who inspired it," she says. The focus shifts from personal narrative to universal emotion. "I don't want people to focus on the specific person behind the song; I want them to connect with the emotions themselves. It's about transforming personal pain into a shared experience."

Kamakshi Khanna will be performing at Fandom at Gilly's Redefined, Koramangala, on August 23. Tickets on Insider.

Karnataka ready to arrest Union Minister in graft case: Siddaramaiah

Lokayukta seeks permission from Governor to prosecute Kumaraswamy; Janata Dal (S) leader alleges that the Congress government is trying to settle political scores with him, says his signature has been forged on mining lease document

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI/BENGALURU

With the Special Investigation Team of the Lokayukta seeking permission from the Governor to prosecute Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy in a case of illegal approval of a lease for iron ore mining by the then State government led by him in 2007, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday said his government would not hesitate to arrest the Janata Dal (S) leader, if need be.

Fielding questions from presspersons in Koppal on the SIT's action, he, however, said an arrest was not yet warranted. "Mr. Kumaraswamy is scared that the Governor may give sanction to prosecute him. The SIT of Lokayukta had submitted the investigation report to the Governor and sought his consent to prosecute Mr. Kumaraswamy. Since the Governor took no action, the SIT has again submitted its application now," he said.

> The Governor is playing delaying tactics in Kumaraswamy's case. But in my case, he immediately gave consent for prosecution without an inquiry report. Isn't it discrimination?
>
> **SIDDARAMAIAH**
> Karnataka Chief Minister

The Chief Minister's statement paved the way for a political slugfest with Mr. Kumaraswamy wondering why he should be scared of arrest and remarking that it would need hundred Siddaramaiahs to arrest him. Mr. Siddaramaiah responded to this, saying, "Just a constable is enough to arrest Mr. Kumaraswamy and there is no need for Siddaramaiah to arrest him. The Governor is playing delaying tactics in Kumaraswamy's case. But in my case, he immediately gave consent for prosecution without an inquiry report. Isn't it discrimination?"

'Signature forged'

Mr. Kumaraswamy alleged that the Congress government was trying to settle political scores with him by taking up the alleged mining lease scam related to Sri Sai Venkateshwara Minerals, and said his signature had been forged on the documents related to the mining lease only to fix him in the case.

"The allegation is that when I was Chief Minister in 2007, I favoured Sai Venkateshwara and collected ₹150 crore from the mine owners. The fact is I have not made the allotment to the company. Till now, there has been no mining in the area as the Central government has not given them permission. There has been no loss to the State exchequer. How can the SIT seek permission from the Governor for prosecution in this case? I am not the one who will be scared with these tactics. I will fight it out legally," Mr. Kumaraswamy said at a press conference in Bengaluru.

Cash-for-vote case: top court refuses pleas to probe Naidu

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

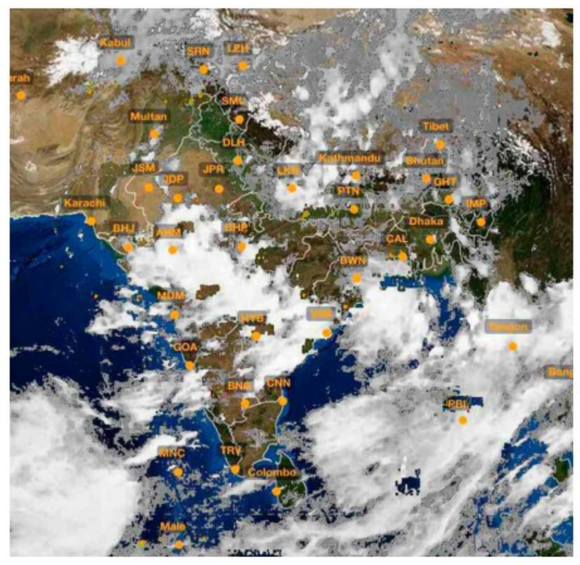
The Supreme Court on Wednesday refused to entertain petitions challenging a High Court decision to quash a plea to investigate Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu in the 2015 cash-for-vote case.

The State High Court had given Mr. Naidu relief in a December 2016 order by dismissing the plea filed by YSR Congress Party leader Alla Ramakrishna Reddy on the ground that the latter had no *locus standi* to move the court in the case.

The cash-for-vote case involves an alleged attempt by Telugu Desam Party leaders to bribe nominated lawmaker, Elvis Stephenson, ahead of MLC polls.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Gujarat, east Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, east Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, West Bengal, Odisha, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Konkan & Goa and coastal Karnataka

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	182	26.0	25.2	Kozhikode	21	29.6	25.3
Ahmedabad	2	34.2	27.0	Kurnool	1	36.1	25.3
Aizawl	77	27.5	22.6	Lucknow	4	32.0	25.7
Allahabad	—	34.9	27.6	Madurai	15	34.2	25.0
Bengaluru	0.2	28.8	22.2	Mangaluru	—	31.0	25.0
Bhopal	22	31.6	24.4	Mumbai	3	32.7	24.8
Bhubaneswar	—	35.0	26.2	Mysuru	0.6	28.5	20.0
Chandigarh	2.8	35.6	26.1	New Delhi	1	36.2	25.5
Chennai	—	34.1	28.6	Patna	—	34.6	27.8
Coimbatore	0.4	31.8	23.6	Port Blair	5	31.3	25.7
Dehradun	125.8	31.0	22.7	Puducherry	—	33.2	26.7
Gangtok	13	22.3	18.1	Pune	0.5	32.9	24.1
Goa	—	31.8	26.5	Raipur	—	35.0	25.8
Guwahati	22	29.6	24.4	Ranchi	—	30.8	23.8
Hubballi	—	30.0	23.0	Shillong	4.9	21.3	16.1
Hyderabad	36	32.2	22.5	Shimla	—	27.5	19.5
Imphal	—	29.5	20.6	Srinagar	6	24.5	19.5
Jaipur	19	33.2	25.2	Thiruvananthapuram	15	31.1	22.9
Kochi	10	29.4	24.0	Tiruchi	—	35.7	25.6
Kohima	14	22.8	16.7	Vijayawada	—	36.0	27.4
Kolkata	6	33.8	26.6	Visakhapatnam	—	33.6	27.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.17	..35	.31	...125	80	
Bengaluru	...8	..35	.84	49	52	
Chennai	...8	6	.62	...162	...110	
Delhi	...4	..96	.37	77	...124	
Hyderabad	...8	..58	100	51	66	
Kolkata	.13	..30	.30	85	62	
Lucknow	.11	8	.21	45	97	
Mumbai	...3	122	.53	43	43	
Pune	..—	..74	.92	71	62	
Visakhapatnam	...8	..37	.21	23	57	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Pali, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 132 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Palkalaiperur, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 12

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

First batch of elephants begins journey to Mysuru to take part in Dasara festivities

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The first batch of nine caparisoned elephants that will take part in the Mysuru Dasara festivities in October began their journey from the Veeranahosahalli gate on the outskirts of the Nagarahole Tiger Reserve to the city on Wednesday.

Signalling the countdown to the Dasara celebrations, the elephants led by 58-year-old tusker Abhimanyu, who is slated to carry the golden howdah during the *Jamboo Savari*, embarked on 'Gajapayana' - the stately march from the jungle camps to the city of palaces.

The event where the elephants were accorded ceremonial reception was witnessed by a large number of people, as the occasion set the ball rolling for the celebrations that commence from October 3.

Minister in-charge of Mysuru district H.C. Mahadevappa, Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre, Minister for Animal Husbandry and Sericulture K. Venkatesh, Hunsur MLA G.D. Harish Gowda, Chamarajanagar MP Sunil Bose, and several others received the caparisoned elephants on their arrival at the venue and showered flowers on them after the puja and rituals by priests.

With the mahouts on their back, the elephants marched a distance before boarding separate trucks for Mysuru.

The Dasara elephants led by tusker Abhimanyu marching after the flagging off of Gajapayana at Veeranahosahalli gate in Nagarahole Tiger Reserve on Wednesday. M.A. SRIRAM

All nine jumbos arrived here traversing a distance of 70 km and are camping at the Aranya Bhavan campus.

The elephants will enter the palace on August 23.

In the past, the elephants used to march on foot from the jungles to Mysuru. Now, the event is symbolic, as the jumbos cover a short distance and are later transported to Mysuru in trucks.

Earlier, Dr. Mahadevappa flagged off the Gajapayana of nine elephants amidst a festive ambience, and cultural and folk performances by the tribals and locals. He said the first batch of nine elephants led by Abhimanyu will be welcomed at the palace on August 23. Other jumbos in the batch includes Kanjan, Ekalavya, Bheema, Lakshmi, Varalakshmi, Rohit, Dhananjaya, and Gopi.

The Minister said Arjuna, who died during a fight with a wild tusker last year, had taken part in Dasara for 14 times and carried howdah on nine occasions. Forest destruction and encroachment are the key reasons for human and animal conflict, he added.

Dr. Mahadevappa said the Chief Minister has directed for grand Dasara celebrations with the State receiving good rains this year and all dams in the State being full. The Dasara preparations are being held as per the CM's directions, he added.

Mr. Khandre, in his address, said two memorials are coming up for Arjuna. One at Sakleshpur where it died and another one at its camp in Balle. He said the second batch of five elephants will reach Mysuru next month.

He recalled the days when Sri Jayachamarajendra Wadiyar used to give a start to Gajapayana from Mastigudi in H.D. Kote taluk after a puja to the elephants. Now, the event is being held at Veeranahosahalli. He said the elephants will be looked after well, providing nutritious food during their stay in Mysuru.

Mr. Khandre said forest conservation is key for addressing climate change and cited the Wayanad landslide. He said railway barricades are being installed in places that are witnessing the human and elephant conflict as 20-30 people die every year in conflict with wild elephants in the State.

Jungle Lodges chairman and MLA Anil Chikkamadu said he has urged the government to institute awards in the name of tusker Arjuna. MLA Harish Gowda said steps have to be taken for providing basic facilities to tribals who live predominantly in Hunsur taluk. He urged the government to develop the birthplace of former Chief Minister D. Devaraj Urs and develop a museum at his ancestral home at Kallahalli.

Teacher accused of sexually assaulting students held

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

A teacher working at a government residential school at Tirthahalli taluk in Shivamogga district has been accused of sexually assaulting several minor students. The police registered a complaint against him and arrested him on Wednesday.

Following complaints by five students on Tuesday, the police registered a case under the POCSO Act. Later, he was arrested by the police on Wednesday. A few more students have made similar allegations against the accused.

Shivamogga SP G.K. Mithun Kumar, on Wednesday, told *The Hindu* that the accused had been arrested. "Around 20 students have complaints against him. We will book a case based on the statements of each victim. There will be as many cases as complainants. We are in the process of gathering information from the victims," he said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that Our Client has entered into an Agreement of Sale to purchase the **Schedule Property** from its Present owners **1) Mr. SAYEED WAHID, 2) Mr. BURHAN SAYEED & 3) Mrs. FARZANA DANISH**.

The Owners represents that they have lost/misplaced the below original documents of the Schedule Property namely:-

(a) Sale Deed Dated 28-03-1973, registered as Document No.5768/72-73 of Book-I, executed by Mr. Syed Ismail in favour of Mr. R.Guru Reddy.
(b) Sale Deed Dated 20-09-1974, registered as Document No.2864/74-75 of Book-I, executed by Mr. R. Guru Reddy in favour of Mr.Chaitanya Dev and Mrs. Kalpana Devi.
(c) Sale Deed Dated 22-01-1981, registered as Document No.4088/80-81 of Book-I, Volume 2833, Pages 91 to 100 in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Gandhinagar, Bangalore executed by Mr. Chaitanya Dev and Mrs. Kalpana Devi in favour of Mrs. Humera Sayeed and other connected documents.

E complaint for loss of documents has been lodged on 20-08-2024 and acknowledge has been issued bearing No.1200955/2024. If any person finds the same or is in possession of the same, may return the same to the undersigned. Any person/s having or claiming any manner of right, title, lien or interest in respect of the Schedule Property or the said lost Documents may intimate the same in writing to the undersigned along with documentary evidence in support of their claim **within 2 Weeks** from the date of this publication, failing which, it will be presumed that the said Documents are lost and our Client will proceed with the transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Immovable Property bearing **BBMP No.79/10** (earlier bearing No.79/1-B, Old No.5), Situated at **Nandidurga Road, G. Ramaiah Layout, First Cross, Benson Town, Corporation No.46, PID No.92-1-79/10, Ward No.63 Jayamahal, Bangalore-560 046, Measuring 50 Feet X 45 Feet = 2250, Square Feet or 209.03175 Square Meters** and bounded on the:

EAST BY : Private Property No.10 WEST BY : Road (G. Ramiah Reddy Layout)
NORTH BY : Private Property SOUTH BY : Private Property

(S.A.H. RAZVI & ARIF PASHA)
No.60, 2nd floor, M.M. Complex, Chick Bazaar Road,
Tasker Town, Bangalore-560 051 **Mob: 9845049766, 9243132714**
Place: Bangalore Dated: 22-08-2024

Department of School Education
(PRE-UNIVERSITY)
SAMPIGE ROAD, 18TH CROSS, MALLESWARAM, BENGALURU-560012
No: DPUE-ACA0OTH/178/2024 Date: 21.08.2024

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(THROUGH KPP PORTAL ONLY)

As Announced in the state budget, to provide online live classes for NEET/KCET/JEE exams for 25,000 Science Students who are studying in Government PU colleges, the following tender has been called in KPP portal to implement the scheme.

Sl. No.	Explanation	Tender Number	Amount in Lakhs
01	**Providing Online Live Classes For NEET/ KCET/JEE Exams**	**PUED/2024-25/ SE0008**	**1250**

The tender details are available in the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** the date for the commencement of e-tender **is 22.08.2024** and Last Date **is 05.09.2024 at 5:30 PM.** For more Details contact E-procurement portal.

Sd/- Director, Department of School Education(PU)

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer, Miner Irrigation And Ground Water Development Division, Ballari

IFT No. EE/MI & GWDD/Bly/AE-2/2024-25/888
Date : 20.08.2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (KW3)

On behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Division Ballari invited the tender for the work of under **Head for Account 4702 Plan APB** 11 works in Ballari and Kampli Taluk Ballari Dist in Two Cover System **Minimum Estimated amount put to tender is Rs.82.62 lakhs and Maximum Estimated amount put to tender is Rs.84.74 lakhs** the tenderers should download and submitt the tenders from **date : 21.08.2024 to 30.08.2024 upto 17.30 hours. Date & Time of opening Technical Bid is on 02.09.2024** and **Opening of Financial Bid is on 08.05.2024 at 11.00 hours**. Any other information should get by login the website http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer, M.I.&G.W.D.Division, Ballari.
DIPR/Ballari/373/KSMCA/2024-25

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Through KPP Portal Only)

BWSSB invites tenders from registered agencies for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to tender / EMD (in Rs,)	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & time for Opening of Tender
1	South-2	BWSSB/EES2/TO/PB/661/ 2024-25 Date: 19.08.2024	Rs. 73,04,318/- / Rs. 1,72,350/-	02.09.2024 upto 4:00 p.m.	04.09.2024 after 4:00 p.m.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (South - 2).

Office of the Chief Engineer (North), 2nd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.

2	North-1	BWSSB/EE(N)-1/PB/1195/ 2024-25 Date: 20.08.2024	Rs. 48,81,890/- / Rs. 1,15,220/-	29.08.2024 upto 4:00 p.m.	30.08.2024 after 4:00 p.m.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (North) - 1.

3	North-2	BWSSB/ENTE/AE-1/646/ 2024-25 Date: 09.08.2024	Rs. 63,63,837/- / Rs. 1,27,300/-	05.09.2024 upto 3:00 p.m.	06.09.2024 after 4:00 p.m.
4		BWSSB/ENTE/AE-1/844/ 2024-25 Date: 09.08.2024	Rs. 40,81,836/- / Rs. 81,700/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (North) - 2.

5	Central	BWSSB/EE(C)/PB/1096/ 2024-25 Date: 21.08. 2024	Rs. 19,74,639/- / Rs. 49,400/-	30.08.2024 upto 5:00 p.m.	31.08.2024 after 5:01 p.m.
6		BWSSB/EE(C)/PB/1098/ 2024-25 Date: 21.08.2024	Rs. 20,86,718/- / Rs. 50,000/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Central).

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the above office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/RA/1576/2024-25

TOWN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL KUSTAGI
Email ID : itstaff_ulb_kustagi@yahoo.com Phone No: 08536 227041.
Website: www.kustagitown.gov.in

NO: TMCK/SBM/2024-25/215 **Dated : 20-08-2024**

E-Procurement Tender
(As per Standard Tender Procurement Bid Document KW-2&3)

As per KTPP 2000 Act by the Order and in the name of Governer, Karnataka State Tenders are invite under SBM Grant Scheme for various Civil Work. Eligible registered bidders are requested to bid in Two Cover System via E-Procurement Portal Website www.kpppkarnataka.gov.in on/or before the date mentioned as under through e-portal only. Manual application will not be accepted.

Further details contact under signed office at Working hours.

In case of the Date of Bid Opening happends to be holiday because of any Special Circumstances/Govt. holiday, The Next Date is Considered as Date of Opening.

Works Details: 1.DMA/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT27204 (P-1). **Estimated Cost (In Lakhs):** 88.02. **EMD (In Rupeer):** 176040.00. **Working Period:** 09 Months Including Rainy Season. 2.DMA/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT27208 (P-2). **Estimated Cost (In Lakhs):** 91.23. **EMD (In Rupeer):** 182480.00. **Working Period:** 09 Months Including Rainy Season. 3.DMA/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT27212 (P-3). **Estimated Cost (In Lakhs):** 21.47. **EMD (In Rupeer):** 26838.00. **Working Period:** 06 Months Including Rainy Season. 4.DMA/2024-25/BD/WORK_INDENT27214 (P-4). **Estimated Cost (In Lakhs):** 68.66. **EMD (In Rupeer):** 137320.00. **Working Period:** 09 Months Including Rainy Season. 5.DMA/2024-25/BD/WORK_INDENT27217 (P-5). **Estimated Cost (In Lakhs):** 42.19. **EMD (In Rupeer):** 52738.00. **Working Period:** 06 Months Including Rainy Season. 6.DMA/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT27218 (P-6). **Estimated Cost (In Lakhs):** 30.48. **EMD (In Rupeer):** 60960.00. **Working Period:** 06 Months Including Rainy Season. **Note : Any changes in Calendar of events will be published in e-procurement portal only Conditions : 1)**Tender Submitted Last Date:- 05-09-2024 at 05-30PM. **2)**Date & Time of Technical Bid Opening :- 09-09-2024 at 11-00 AM. **3)**Date & Time of Financial Bid Opening :- 12-09-2024 at 11-00 AM or After days. **4)** Package Details in www.kustagitown.mrc.gov.in. **5)** Work Completion Date in KW-2&3 – 06&09 Months in Rainy Season. **6)** The Sole Decision of Tender Acceptance & Rejection Authority of Chief Officer TMC Kustagi. **7)** More Details in Govt. e-procuremet Website in http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in. **8)** The GST of 18% shall be added separately to the estimate as per Govt Order No. PWD 51 RDF 2019, Bengaluru Dated : 18-03-2022.

DIPR/Koppal/265/KSMCA/2024-25 **Sd/- Chief Officer, TMC Kustagi.**

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಉಡುಪಿ
ಕವಿಮುದ್ದಣ್ಣ ಮಾರ್ಗ,ಉಡುಪಿ–576101, ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 0820–2520306
E-MAIL: itstaff_ulb_udupi@yahoo.com Website: www.udupicity.mrc.gov.in

ಉನಸ:ಬಿ2.:ಸಿಆರ್:2024–25 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19.08.2024

ದರಸೂಚಿ ಕೊಟೇಶನ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳ ಅಮೃತ ನಗರೋತ್ಥಾನ (ಮುನಿಸಿಪಾಲಟಿ)ಯೋಜನೆ ಹಂತ 4ರ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಉಡುಪಿ ನಗರಸಭಾ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳುವ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಸ್ಥಳ ಪರಿಶೀಲನೆ Design, Drawings, CSR ದರದಂತೆ ಅಂದಾಜುಪಟ್ಟಿ ತಯಾರಿಸಿ ನೀಡಲು ಅರ್ಹ Consultancy ಗಳಿಂದ ದರಸೂಚಿ ಕೋಟೇಶನ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರವರಿಂದ ಅಧಿಕಾರ ಹೊಂದಿದವರು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 26.08.2024ರ ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ನಂತರ ಬರುವ ಕೊಟೇಶನ್ನನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ ಬಂದಿರುವ ಕೊಟೇಶನ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಅದೇ ದಿನ ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಅಥವಾ ಸೂಕ್ತ ದಿನದಂದು ಹಾಜರಿರುವ ಕೊಟೇಶನ್‌ದಾರರ ಸಮಕ್ಷಮ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಕಚೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದವರಿಂದ ಕೇಳಿ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು.

ಕ್ರ.ಸ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ
1	2ನೇ ವಡಭಾಂಡೇಶ್ವರ ವಾರ್ಡಿನ ಸರಸ್ವತಿ ಭಜನಾ ಮಂದಿರದ ಬಳ ಸಮುದಾಯ ಭವನ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ. 24ನೇ ಕಸ್ತೂರ್ಬಾನಗರ ಪಣಿಯಾಡಿ ಪ.ಜಾತಿ ಕಾಲನಿ ರಸ್ತೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ. 7ನೇ ಕೊಡಂಕೂರು ಎಸ್.ಸಿ.ಕಾ.ನಿ ಹಾಗೂ 9ನೇ ಸುಬ್ರಮಣ್ಯನಗರ ಎಸ್.ಸಿ ಕಾಲನಿ ರಸ್ತೆ ಅಭಿವೃದಿ	119.89 ಲಕ್ಷ
	ಸೆಟ್ಟಬೆಟ್ಟು ವಾರ್ಡಿನ ನಗರಬೆಟ್ಟು ಮಾಣಿಕೋಡು ಮಠ ಮತ್ತು ಅಡ್ಡರಸ್ತೆ ಕಾಂಕ್ರೀಟೀಕರಣ, ಕೊಡವೂರು ವಾರ್ಡಿನ ಕೊಪ್ಪಲ ತೋಟ ವಿಜಯ ಬಂಗೇರ ಮನೆಯಿಂದ ರೋಹಿತ್ ಮನೆಯ ವರೆಗೆ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಪರ್ಕಳ ವಾರ್ಡಿನ ಮಹಲಿಂಗೇಶ್ವರ ದೇವಸ್ಥಾನ 2ನೇ ಅಡ್ಡರಸ್ತೆ ರಾಜೇಶ್ ಮನೆ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಸದಾನಂದ ನಾಯ್ಕ್ ಮನೆರಸ್ತೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ, ಪರ್ಕಳ ವಾರ್ಡಿನ ಶ್ರೀ ಸುಬ್ರಾಯ ನಾಯಕ್‌ರವರ ಮನೆಗೆ ಹೋಗುವ ರಸ್ತೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ.	85.00 ಲಕ್ಷ

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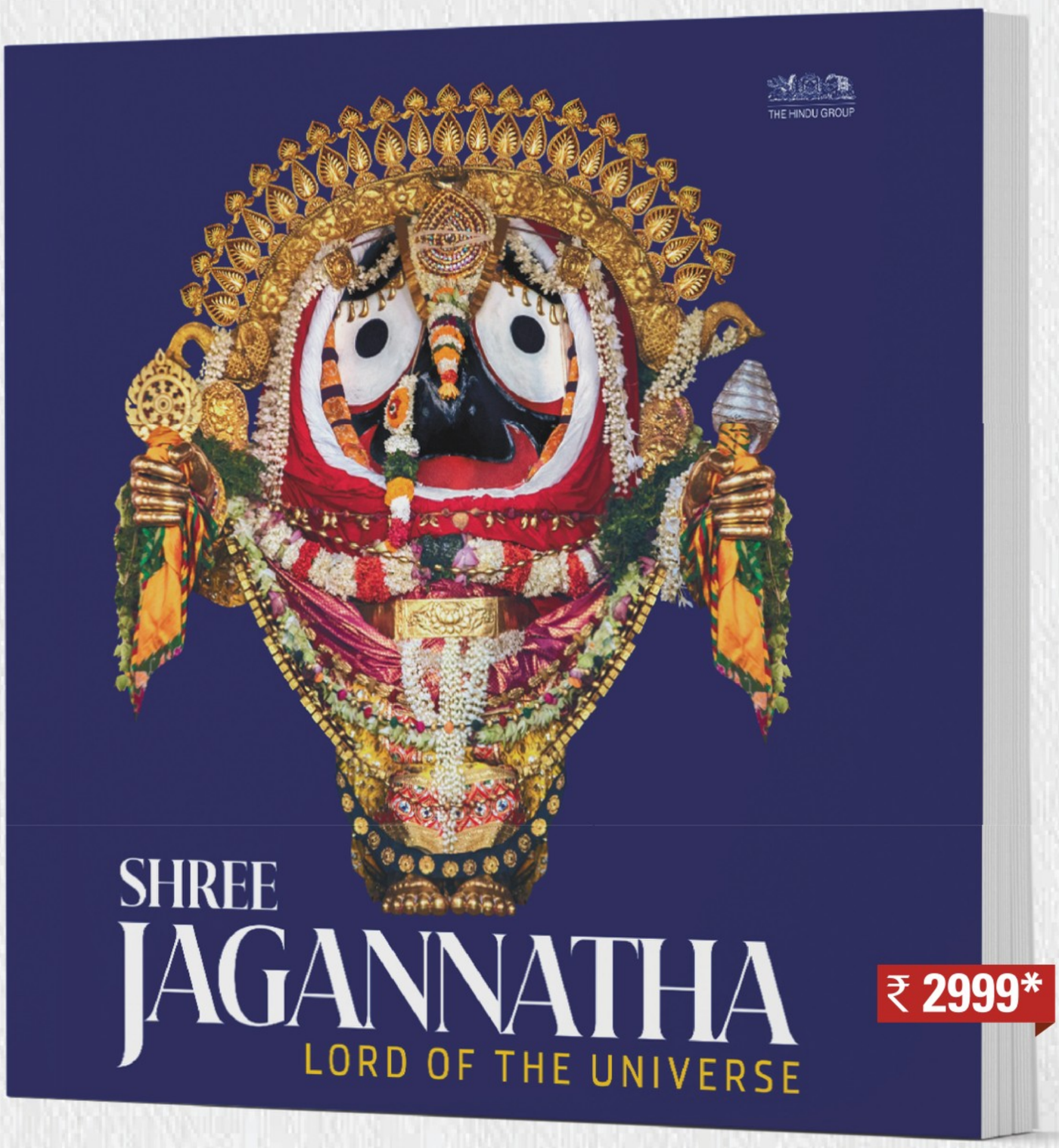

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Double brake

Struggling with anti-incumbency, BJP faces a resurgent Congress in Haryana

The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Haryana is leaving no stone unturned to fight back a resurgent Congress, as the State is scheduled to have a single-phase Assembly election on October 1 for all 90 seats. The attempts of the Jannayak Janta Party (JJP) to retain its position as a third player, and of the Aam Aadmi Party to emerge as one, continue, though a sharp polarisation between the two national parties appears likely. The BJP has to tackle double anti-incumbency as it has been in power in both the State and the Centre for the last 10 years. Cognisant of the headwinds, the BJP replaced then Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar with Nayab Singh Saini, in March ahead of the general election. Mr. Saini has been trying to pacify various interest groups, by reversing many decisions of his predecessor and announcing new schemes. Sarpanches who are up in arms over the curtailing of their rights have got their expenditure limit increased for the gram panchayats from ₹5 lakh to ₹21 lakh. He has organised special camps, or 'Samadhan Shivirs', to address people's grievances; and 1.20 lakh contractual employees have been ensured job security until the age of superannuation. The creamy layer annual income for Other Backward Classes, that was reduced to ₹6 lakh by Mr. Manohar Lal Khattar, has been restored to its level of ₹8 lakh. A 10% horizontal reservation for Agniveers in various State government posts, and an expanded minimum support price regime for crops have been promised.

Haryana's fundamental social cleft between Jats and non-Jats had worked to the BJP's advantage in the last two Assembly elections. But the multi-caste alliance behind the BJP had begun to weaken by the 2019 Assembly election, with the farmers' agitation and the Agnipath scheme undermining it further in the last five years. Additionally, the party is caught in numerous rivalries within the tent. The party's majority in the Assembly itself is questionable. The Congress hopes to cash in on all this and turn around its own fortunes. Former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, who is helming the Congress campaign, appears to have consolidated the party behind him. His focus is on unemployment and the crisis in the agricultural sector. The Congress still has the task of ensuring that its factional leaders remain united until the end. Communal polarisation, though at its lowest in the last 10 years, can still wreck the party's plans. Despite a decline, the BJP managed to avoid a total rout in the Lok Sabha election. The Congress and the BJP shared the 10 Lok Sabha seats equally, while the Congress increased its vote share across the State. The outcome in Haryana will have implications for the Congress and the BJP at the national level.

Power play

Hydropower projects must factor in the environmental costs too

While Wayanad in Kerala limps back to normal life after the devastating landslide last month, a landslide on Tuesday in Sikkim caused damage to six houses and a building of the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) at its Teesta-5 hydropower station in Gangtok. There is no comparison of the impact of the event in both places, as there was no loss of lives or injuries reported in Sikkim. However, the cause for concern is that this is the second natural-disaster-led assault on a hydropower project along the Teesta. A deluge from the South Lhonak glacier in North Sikkim last October washed away the Chungthang dam that was critical to the Teesta-3 power station (which is not operated by the NHPC). The Teesta-3 (1,200 MW) power project was the largest hydroelectric power project in the State until it was effectively grounded after the outburst. Only a tenth of the power originally being supplied by the project is now available. The Teesta-5 project, at 510 MW, has also been made non-functional since the glacial lake outburst.

The disaster shines a new light on an old, but never quiescent, conundrum posed by hydropower projects. From initial proposals nearly three decades ago to have 47 power projects along the run of the Teesta in Sikkim and West Bengal, only five projects exist and about 16 are in various stages of consideration. A tributary of the Brahmaputra, the Teesta river originates from the Tso Lhamo Lake at an elevation of about 5,280 metres in north Sikkim. The river travels for about 150 km in Sikkim and 123 km in West Bengal, before entering Bangladesh from Mekhliganj in Cooch Behar district; it flows another 140 km in Bangladesh and joins the Bay of Bengal. In theory, the river's course through undulating terrain is what tempts governments to extract as much benefit as possible for power projects. Through the decades, several companies have bid for projects auctioned out by State governments but the process has rarely been without complications. It has been a complicated exercise in balancing the environmental risks, costs of properly insuring for those risks, public perception and aiming for profit. In the case of the Teesta-3 project, reports have emerged that the developers, in order to save on costs, built a concrete-faced rock fill dam as opposed to a concrete gravity dam – one reason why it was completely washed away. Environmental impact assessments of hydropower projects in the region must give a clear estimate of the actual costs involved. This will not only bolster public faith in these projects but also be environmentally sustainable.

Moral pressure and human rights compliance

Shelley Walia

has taught Cultural Theory at Punjab University

As is commonly recognised, there are two ways in which compliance with human rights norms can be enforced. One approach is the enforcement of economic sanctions or military invasion. This is only possible in the case of powerful nations. The other strategy is through forceful condemnation which can be undertaken by non-governmental organisations or smaller nations, irrespective of their military or economic power or their lack of adequate international clout.

Though the practice of state sovereignty puts up barriers to the implementation of international human rights standards, moral pressure against the governments guilty of violating human rights sometimes succeeds in nudging them to step back. But mostly, it is seen that authoritarian regimes such as the dispensation of Vladimir Putin in Russia, Xi Jinping in China or Kim Jong-un in North Korea completely ignore the pleadings of various governments, many of whom, in reality, have their own political and economic agenda in disingenuously taking the moral high ground of an anti-war or a liberal narrative.

Impact of naming and shaming

However, Rochelle Terman, a scholar on human rights, in her recent study, 'The Geopolitics of Shaming: When Human Rights Pressure Works' – and When It Backfires' (Princeton 2024), places the idea of locating shaming in strategic contexts, thereby exploring the success of publicly identifying and condemning those guilty of human abuse. Naming and shaming, as well as the genuine intentions of lending full support to the victims have, in many instances, worked out positively as a deterrence to further violations.

Innumerable political occasions across the world corroborate the impact of naming and shaming in endorsing human rights accountability and reforms. Such campaigns, it was seen, resulted in exerting significant pressure on governments to improve their human rights records – as in the case of Myanmar and Ethiopia – leading to the release of political prisoners.

Similarly, in Columbia and Argentina, naming and shaming had a tangible impact on policy deviations to address human rights apprehensions. Dictators such as Augusto Pinochet of Chile, Slobodan Milošević from Serbia, Charles Taylor from Liberia, and Alberto Fujimori from Peru have been prosecuted for crimes against humanity after a worldwide censure of their tyranny was established. Across cultures, both traditional and modern, the violence against marginalised ethnic groups or LGBTQ individuals have led to augmented safeguards and appreciation of basic human rights. Campaigns against such perpetrators have visibly led to increased access to justice and reparations for victims of human rights abuses.

Though naming and shaming efforts often fail, with some guilty governments resisting or denying allegations, or making only cosmetic changes, unrelenting pressure and activism does contribute to greater culpability over time. For example, in the case of Israel, universal endorsements have had negligible impact on the leadership to comply with the demands of recognised human rights institutions which promote and monitor violations. But student agitations across the world against the genocide in Palestine or, more recently, against the dictatorship in Bangladesh are indisputably acts of dissent resulting in exerting moral pressure on the Zionist lobby or on the idea of religious nationalism that often leads to authoritarianism. Such campaigns have often led to increased international scrutiny and demands for human rights improvements. It is disheartening that many nations remain bystanders, or disallow student agitations to suit their right-wing affiliations.

> There is a need to establish the undeniable centrality of human rights in a rapidly changing world that is facing prejudice and fanaticism

Conundrum in international law

The moot question, therefore, before us is to interrogate if the strategy of using "naming and shaming" is effective. Though a powerful tool of moral pressure that puts a country such as China, Russia, Israel or Syria in the spotlight, and condemns violations and urges reform, a conundrum in international law continues to smoulder. For example, when Amnesty International asks you to endorse a petition on behalf of a political dissident in China, or the United Nations issues a resolution convicting state violence in Syria, it amounts to shaming. Or when Russia is banned from participating in the Olympics, it becomes an international act of humiliating the violator. But what can such moral sanctions achieve when in many cases even military invasion or economic sanctions do not work?

Rather than merely exposing the violator on the global stage, one way out of the conundrum would be to ensure that human rights emerge from the inherent social and democratic institutions as well as from the innate national psyche. Human rights advocates must urge governments to build a bridge between power and law, concentrating steadfastly on popular appeals and democratic politics. The success of such an approach will depend on the intensity with which the illiberal forces are challenged by disallowing liberal ideas to be subverted.

Forces fighting for human rights must come to grips with the tendency to co-opt the forces of liberalism through a false rhetoric based on propaganda and deceptions used as trappings of manipulation for the furtherance of power, and buttressed by a sort of unconstitutional politics. Such a brand of hubris will stand vanquished when the impetus given to the growth of human rights and the furtherance of economic and social reforms disempowers the tyranny of the state.

Understandably, we live in a world beleaguered by prejudice and fanaticism, where authoritarian governments tyrannise their people, where free speech is denied with utmost insensitivity. The very dignity of the people is repudiated and their fundamental freedoms cramped.

The state and human rights

To restore the personal liberty of all and bring the guilty to justice within the ambit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, becomes the responsibility of the state. Such a call for the scrutiny of the various functions and policies of the state would hasten the advent of the question of human rights to the centre stage and usher in an environment of peace, tolerance and understanding. To achieve this, it is pragmatic that the state takes this task as binding and sacred. In case the state shows reluctance in patronising the cause of human rights, any kind of resistance activism would gain in its legitimacy, especially as a process of a critical, reflective and alert defence of the general public against state persecution or indifference.

Achievements and disappointments of implementing human rights are better understood within the context of liberal modernity where a repression-free state respects human rights without any bias or partiality so that rules of equal treatment stand at the forefront of its crucial concerns. This is possible when the interests of the prevailing parties in power cohere with the question of seeking human rights as fundamental to their political ideology and a zeitgeist underpinned by a conscience of a deep-rooted moral concern. The state would, therefore, need to establish stronger institutions that keep abreast of the democratic norms of protecting basic human rights, a moral and legal position based on ideologically-centered proclamations of norms and expositions.

It is imperative, therefore, to establish the undeniable centrality of human rights amidst the ever-increasing human-rights violations in a rapidly changing world, particularly in liberal systems which help to sustain full stability through generating public welfare in an egalitarian environment. To achieve this, a consolidation of the plausible foundation for human rights, of political coalitions, institutional arrangements, and political ideologies has to be mobilised as a strategy for achieving compliance and justice through holding culprits responsible. This centrality remains absent in North Korea or China, and now in many countries with right-wing governments across the world where the success of a political system depends not on purposeful prerequisite for rights, open-minded legality, or democratic culpability, but on the authoritarian ideological state apparatus geared to attain maximum power over the people.

After 'manifesto moment', budgetary disappointment

Anish Gawande

National Spokesperson, Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar) and Founder, Pink List India

Following a "manifesto moment" in the lead-up to the 2024 general election where several major political parties pledged support for the LGBTQ+ community, the 2024 Union Budget has dashed the hopes of queer Indians yearning for recognition in national politics.

A transformative overhaul of the government's approach towards LGBTQ+ rights was never expected – especially given the Solicitor General's vehement opposition to marriage equality before the Supreme Court of India last year. Yet, the mention of transgender rights in the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s own manifesto had sparked a glimmer of hope for progress under a Modi 3.0 government.

Instead, the LGBTQ+ community found itself reduced to a mere footnote in the Budget: the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment's allocation for "Comprehensive Rehabilitation for Welfare of Transgender Persons" under the Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise (SMILE) programme. This programme promises to fund *Garima Grahas* (shelter homes), scholarships, and the National Council for Transgender Persons.

Meagre funding for crucial programmes

On paper, the budgetary outlay for transgender welfare increased from ₹52.91 crore in FY24 to ₹68.46 crore in FY25. But a closer look reveals a harsh reality: actual expenditure was a meagre ₹22.82 crore in FY24. Nowhere is the impact of this discrepancy more starkly reflected than in the fact that most *Garima Grahas* have shut down over the past two years due to lack of funding, and the NCTP is barely functional.

With just a meagre increase for this financial year, who will fulfil the guarantee to build *Garima Grahas*, promised in the '*Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikaas*' section of the BJP's 2024 *Sankalp Patra*?

SMILE is not the only victim of the government's apathy. Even more troubling is the reduction in funding for the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) from ₹3,079.97 crore in FY24 to ₹2,892.00 crore in FY25.

> While political manifestos in the run-up to the 2024 general election offered the LGBTQ+ community some hope, allocations in the Union Budget spell despondency

NACO, tasked with both combating HIV/AIDS and preventing Sexually transmitted infections, plays a crucial role in public health. Despite decades of progress, India still faces one of the largest HIV epidemics in the world, with LGBTQ+ Indians at a higher risk of contracting the virus and facing distinct psychosocial challenges.

Today, over 2.4 million people in India live with HIV. Of those, almost 900,000 are not linked to treatment–and more than half a million are unaware they are even infected.

The last credible study by the National Aids Control Organization (NACO) in 2003 estimated that 6% of India's adult population was infected with STIs. The more recent National Family Health Survey (2019-21) highlighted that 23.3% of sexually active unmarried men between 15 and 29 had more than one sexual partner, with risky sex practices and lack of condom use prevalent in both urban and rural areas. What prompted the government to slash funding not only for HIV prevention but also the fight against STIs when we are staring at a potential public health crisis?

A denial of rights

The lack of budgetary allocation is not just about misplaced priorities or ideological differences. It is a systematic denial of the rights of millions of LGBTQ+ Indians, blocking their access to an equal share over the country's resources.

The numbers lay bare the reality. The 2011 Census counted 4.9 lakh transgender Indians. Even if we accept this disproportionately low figure, the 2024 Budget allocated a meagre ₹1,400 for the welfare of each transgender citizen. More realistic estimates suggest that the transgender population in India is around 1.22 crore, making this average allocation a pitiful ₹56 a person.

Young Indians, emboldened by recent court victories affirming that the Constitution of India protects every single Indian citizen regardless of gender or sexuality, need a government that creates safe spaces to ensure that they are not harassed or bullied in schools – one that provides inclusive mental health care to prevent rising suicide rates among young LGBTQ+ youth, and one that guarantees equal access to education and employment.

Political support helps

I hope that Members of Parliament from the Opposition parties, including my own party (the Nationalist Congress Party), which raised the demands of the LGBTQ+ community in their election manifestos, stand up for the rights of LGBTQ+ Indians in Parliament. I also hope – perhaps naively – that those in the government who got transgender rights included in the BJP's manifesto in the first place realise their missteps and work towards a shared vision of an inclusive future.

For too long, queer Indians have relied upon courts as guarantors of rights. As we navigate new political paradigms, it is important for the queer movement to build upon an impressive history of active political engagement – one that saw the Namdeo Dhasal march, in 1988, with trans women and sex workers from Kamathipura to the then Chief Minister Sharad Pawar's residence to demand protection from moneylenders and Shabnam Mausi being elected elected as India's first transgender MLA from Sohagpur in Madhya Pradesh in 1998.

Recent successes, such as the establishment of the transgender welfare board in Maharashtra in 2020 and the drafting of Tamil Nadu's LGBTQ+ policy in 2024, indicate that judicial progress results in executive action only when sustained by civil society pressure. We must take this lesson to heart, working not only with the Centre but also States and local bodies to ensure that rights recognised on paper are effectively implemented in practice.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Short-lived respect

I had interviewed a nurse who had worked during the COVID-19 pandemic — this was for a project, and recently — and she mentioned how the value of health-care professionals in the eyes of the public has increased. Fast forward a month or so, and the Kolkata trainee doctor case is all over the news. It made me wonder how short-lived our regard for the sacrifices of medical staff is. Also, if someone from an educated background is being denied justice despite wide coverage of the issue, it poses a serious question on the safety of women.

Besania,
Bengaluru

Workings of film industry

The much-awaited report of the Justice K. Hema Committee exposes the dark side of the (Malayalam) film industry. Matters such as the 'casting couch', 'adjustments' and 'compromises', which seemed to be rumours and an example of exaggeration, are now confirmed realities. It is even more shocking to know that even 'popular' and 'reputed' actors are involved in these cases. What is worse is the sad plight of junior artistes and other workers in the industry.
The report should help ensure the safety, the dignity and the well-being of women in the film industry as a whole.

M. Pradyu,
Thalikavu, Kannur, Kerala

World Mosquito Day

It is surprising that hardly any media outlet had articles or reports on August 20, 'World Mosquito Day'. There should have been extensive reports on the disease fight in India especially as the insect is among the world's deadliest creatures. Malaria, yellow fever, dengue and lymphatic filariasis still remain deadly diseases and linked to the mosquito. There needs to be data on the risks posed by mosquito-borne diseases.

Dr. Srinivas Rajagopal,
Suchindram, Tamil Nadu

Imports weaken Indian pharma

Ensuring the affordability of pharmaceuticals is essential for controlling healthcare costs, especially in India, where out-of-pocket health expenditures accounted for nearly 47.1% of the total health expenditure in 2021. While the Drugs Price Control Order, 2013, aims to regulate the prices of existing medicines, a better option is to establish a competitive environment for critical medicines by promoting local production. However, the government has taken two initiatives to meet domestic requirements through imports, which could have a chilling effect on the domestic industry.

The first was a Department of Expenditure (DoE) order permitting the Ministry of Health to procure 120 medicines through global tenders to supply Union government schemes. This list includes several top-selling anti-diabetes medicines and anti-cancer drugs. Currently, the companies selling these medicines enjoy a market monopoly in India, largely due to patent protection, regulatory barriers, or both. Moreover, for over 40 of these 120 medicines, the DoE order specifies a specific brand to be procured, implying that monopoly control of foreign companies would be enhanced.

Secondly, the 2024-25 Union Budget proposed removing the 10-12% customs duty on three cancer medicines marketed by AstraZeneca, ostensibly to reduce their prices. Given that some of these medicines are priced extremely high, the proposed import duty reduction would contribute little towards making them affordable.

These measures could seriously disincentivise domestic producers, making the country dependent on imports. More importantly, they could reinforce two entry barriers faced by the domestic industry, namely, the product patent regime and the regulatory guidelines for marketing approval of bio-therapeutics.

Biswajit Dhar
Distinguished Professor, Council for Social Development, New Delhi

K.M. Gopakumar
legal advisor and senior researcher, Third World Network

Chetali Rao
Consultant, Third World Network

New medicines are generally under patent protection, preventing Indian companies from producing affordable generics/biosimilars. Meanwhile, regulatory guidelines, which impose costly and time-consuming requirements for obtaining marketing approval of biosimilars, can adversely affect domestic producers. However, both these entry barriers can be overcome through proactive government action. The Patents Act has several public interest provisions which can be invoked to promote local production. Similarly, regulatory guidelines for marketing approval of bio-therapeutics can be suitably amended to reduce the burden on domestic companies.

Section 83 of the Patents Act states that "patents are granted to encourage inventions and to secure that the inventions are worked in India on a commercial scale and to the fullest extent that is reasonably practicable without undue delay" and that "they are not granted merely to enable patentees to enjoy a monopoly for the importation of the patented article". It also states, "Patents are granted to make the benefit of the patented invention available at reasonably affordable prices to the public". Substantive provisions enforce these key assertions, ensuring that while patent holders are guaranteed their rights under the Act, they cannot act in a manner that is prejudicial to the public interest.

If a patented medicine is "not available to the public at a reasonably affordable price," compulsory licences (CL) can be granted to any company willing to make the product in India. Issuing CL is the most effective remedy to ensure affordability of medicines but it was issued only once. This was when the originator company was charging nearly three lakh for a medicine. Using CL, an Indian company produced for ₹8,000. However, despite the high prices of medicines, the Patent Office has not issued CL for any other medicine. The government opposed granting CL even during the COVID-19 pandemic. This is in stark contrast to the stance of the U.S. government, which granted licences on multiple patents during the pandemic.

India's Patents Act also permits the granting of government-use licences. Section 100 states, "patents granted do not in any way prohibit Central government in taking measures to protect public health". Provisions under this section allow for the granting of government-use licences to enable domestic production of generic versions of patented medicines.

Biosimilar guidelines

The guidelines for marketing approval of biosimilars in India are not only obsolete but also resource and time-intensive. For instance, the current guidelines require mandatory animal studies, which are no longer necessary even in developed countries with stringent regulatory standards, including the U.S. and the EU. Further, the WHO guidelines and the U.K. guidelines, for biosimilar marketing approval, treat clinical trial requirements as an exception rather than a rule, whereas the Indian guidelines still insist on mandatory clinical trials. These requirements create another barrier for Indian producers. In a recent press release, the International Generic and Biosimilar Medicines Association stated that "savings in time and resources from eliminating these duplicative requirements could have a meaningful impact on patient access."

The proposed duty waiver on cancer medicines and global tendering for critical medicines undermine Parliament's directives to improve access and affordability of medicines through domestic production, using the provisions of the Patents Act. Reliance on imports could have a chilling effect on the pharmaceutical industry, weakening its ability to remain relevant. The government needs to review its recent decisions, but more crucially, align its policies to support the growth of the domestic pharmaceutical industry.

Reliance on imports could have a chilling effect on the pharmaceutical industry, weakening its ability to remain relevant

Mamata's moment of reckoning

Tragedy at R.G. Kar has shaken public trust in Bengal Chief Minister's leadership

STATE OF PLAY

Shiv Sahay Singh
shivsahay.s@thehindu.co.in

Faced with one of the biggest challenges of her administrative career in containing the raging protests over the rape and murder of a doctor at R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital (RGKMCH), West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee did what she does best, which is hitting the streets. Many in the State could not fathom whom the Chief Minister was protesting against when anger was directed at her government. Even after 13 years in power, Ms. Banerjee has not been able to break free of her image as an Opposition leader, street fighter, and rabble-rouser.

As a Chief Minister of the fourth most populous State of the country, the people expected more from Ms. Banerjee than only hitting the streets in such a moment of crisis.

The rape and murder of a postgraduate trainee doctor not only reflects lapses on several fronts but also reveals a deep rot in the administration.

In the R.G. Kar incident, neither the hospital administration nor the police followed protocols. From informing the family that the doctor had died by suicide, to registering a case of unnatural death when injuries on the body of the victim *prima facie* pointed out sexual assault and murder, the hospital and police could have handled the situation better.

As anger simmered and women sought to reclaim the night on the eve of Independence Day, the Chief Minister said that 'Bangladesh style' protests were being organised by '*Ram Baam*' (Left and Right) to remove her from power. When the mob ransacked the

RGKMCH in the early hours of August 15, the police deployed posed no resistance and some policemen even ran for cover inside the hospital.

The mob at the hospital was not the only mob that people of the State had seen recently. Weeks ago, when a couple was publicly beaten up by a local Trinamool leader in Chopra, a mob gathered and watched as the woman writhed in pain. Similar mobs turn violent during elections. Given that West Bengal has been a party-dominated society, such mobs have had the backing of the political system.

The accused in the horrific rape and murder is a civic police volunteer who had unrestricted access to both the hospital and its emergency wing. The system of civic police volunteers, where there is no scrutiny before appointment and minimal accountability, is a result of Trinamool Congress policies that promote contractual workers with allegiance to the ruling party.

Ms. Banerjee can no longer play the victim card and must take the onus of the administrative mess exposed by the R. G. Kar incident. This incident shook the people's faith in the country's only female Chief Minister.

Even before the outrage over the R.G. Kar incident, there had been several such incidents that raised questions about the security of women in West Bengal. The rape of a woman at Park Street inside a moving vehicle in 2012, the rape and murder of a college student at Kamduni in 2013, the gang rape of a tribal woman at Birbhum in 2014, and more recently rape and suicide of a teenager at Hanskhali in 2022, are instances where the CM could have come out of denial mode and put a proper mechanism in place.

But she and her administration remained busy patting their own back, celebrating how Kolkata recorded fewer crimes against women and was the safest city for women. These claims have fallen flat, as even the State government's advisory, meant to protect women working at night, suggests minimising night shifts for women.

The CM and her party leadership have to realise that populist policies can only help win elections, which should not be considered the end goal of democracy. They should invest in creating a sustainable society with equitable opportunities. In the absence of such opportunities, lumpensiation will rage across the State and mobs will take control of the streets.

The government should realise that populism has limits, a fact that is evident from certain clubs refusing financial grants offered by the government for organising Durga Puja in the aftermath of the gruesome crime.

The people of West Bengal take pride in celebrating Durga Puja, welcoming the female Goddess into their homes, neighbourhoods, and city. However, the torture meted out to the 31-year-old doctor at her workplace will not only haunt Bengali society this festival season but for many autumns to come.

Precedents show Centre can help fund Chennai Metro

With Chennai bursting at its seams, the Phase II project, while costly, is an urgent need to connect the city's outskirts with its centre

DATA POINT

Sambavi Parthasarathy
Vignesh Radhakrishnan

The Phase-II of the Chennai Metro Rail has once again emerged as a bone of contention between the Centre and Tamil Nadu, with the Centre reiterating it as a "State-sector" project in a recent reply in the Lok Sabha.

In fact, the Public Investment Board (PIB) had recommended it as a 'central sector project' in August 2021, just months after the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam formed the State government. However, the Union Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has not approved it till now.

While the project is indeed cost-intensive, as the Centre had suggested many times in the past, data shows that the Centre's share is not a far cry from the funds sanctioned for Metros in other cities such as Bengaluru. Moreover, the project is a necessity as the population in the city's exteriors which are not connected by Metro is growing rapidly.

Chart 1 depicts the size and cost of various Metro projects – both completed and under construction. The three Metro projects in Chennai – Phase 1, Phase 1A and Phase 2 – are highlighted.

The chart shows the total route length in km for each project on the horizontal axis.

The cost in rupee crore is depicted along the vertical axis. Chennai Metro's second phase with a route length of 118.9 km is estimated to cost ₹63,246.4 crore, making it the costliest-ever Metro project undertaken in India.

That being said, a lion's share of the funding for Chennai Metro phase-II – 70% of the construction cost – is to be sourced as a loan from multilateral/bilateral agencies as shown in **Table 2** as per the recommendations of the PIB. The PIB had asked the Centre to pitch in ₹5,407.4 crore as equity (11% of the cost) and ₹2,017.5 crore as a loan (4%) to the project with the State giving similar amounts.

It is this 11% as equity (₹5,407.4 crore) and 4% as subordinate debt (₹2,017.5 crore) that the Centre has refused so far.

Chart 3 shows the Centre's sanctioned funds (as equity) for various Metro projects across six States.

As things stand today, the Centre has sanctioned ₹7,468 crore as equity for the three phases of the Bengaluru Metro combined, ₹12,550 crore for all phases of the Delhi Metro combined, compared with just ₹3,633 crore as equity for Phase 1 and 1A of the Chennai metro.

Even if the Centre agrees to release the funds recommended by the PIB for Phase-II, its share in Chennai Metro will go up to about ₹9,000 crore, close to ₹1,500 crore more than its share in Bengaluru Metro and still about ₹3,500 crore less than Delhi's.

Also, this amount does not need to be released by the Centre in one go and can be staggered across various years.

While it is true that Phase II is a costly venture, a look at the population growth in the city's outskirts shows that Chennai is bursting at its seams.

Map 4 shows the number of electors in various Assembly segments in and around Chennai in the 2011 State and 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

The number of electors in the Assembly segments near the city centre such as Egmore, Chepauk, Thousand Lights and T Nagar have grown at a snail's pace. In contrast, electors in segments far away from the centre such as Velachery, Sholinganallur, Alandur, Pallavaram, Madhuravoyal and Ambattur, have surged in the period.

Especially, the number of electors in Sholinganallur – one of the major areas not connected by Metro currently and will be in phase II – has skyrocketed from 3.5 lakh in 2011 to 6.6 lakh in 2024.

Costly, but feasible and necessary

The data were sourced from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Metro websites and the Election Commission

Chart 1: The chart depicts the size and cost of various Metro projects — both completed and under construction — across Indian cities

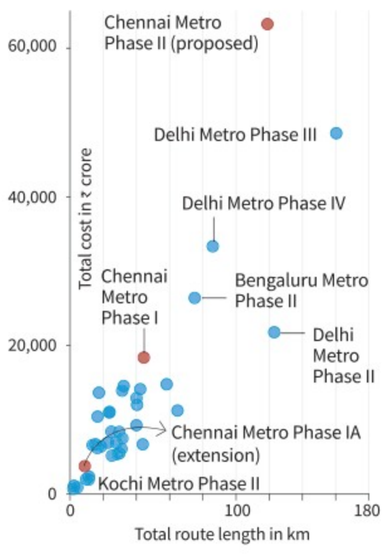
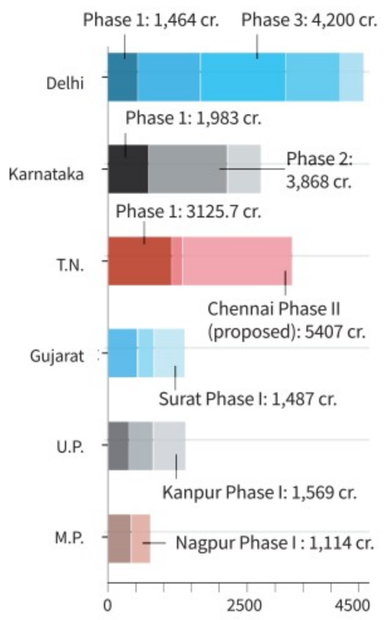


Chart 3: Centre's sanctioned funds as equity for various Metro projects across select States

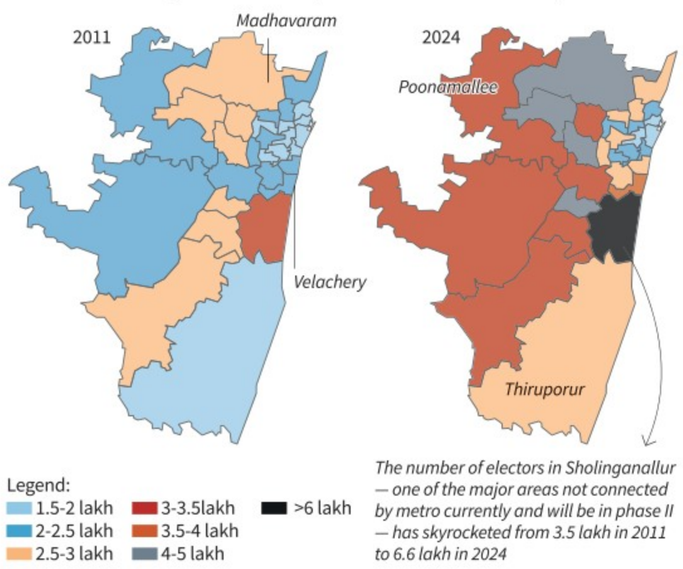


In the graph, each row corresponds to the Centre's allocation (equity) for various metros. Each rectangle corresponds to a metro project

Table 2: The table shows the funding pattern of Chennai Metro Rail Phase II as recommended by the Public Investment Board

Sources	Amount (in crore)	Percentage (%)
GoI: equity	5,407.4	11.2
GoI: subordinate debt	2,017.5	4.2
GoI: sub total	**7,424.9**	**15.4**
GoTN: equity	5,407.4	11.2
GoTN: subordinate debt	2,017.5	4.2
GoTN: sub total	**7,424.9**	**15.4**
Loan assistance from multilateral / bilateral agencies	33,593.5	69.2
Sub total	48,443.3	100
GoTN: Subordinate debt for land, resettlement and rehabilitation, State taxes and others	13,339.4	
GoTN: Interest during construction for loan and front end fee	1,403.7	
Total	63,246.4	

Chart 4: The map shows the number of electors in various Assembly segments in and around Chennai, in the 2011 State polls and the 2024 Lok Sabha polls



The number of electors in Sholinganallur — one of the major areas not connected by metro currently and will be in phase II — has skyrocketed from 3.5 lakh in 2011 to 6.6 lakh in 2024

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 22, 1974

London stock market slump casts gloom

London, August 21: The London Stock Market continues to fall and the market barometer yesterday was below the 200 level of the Financial Times share index. There are persistent rumours that it could fall by another 15 or 20 points which would mean that, taking inflation into account, the share prices' real value would be equivalent to the prices in the 20s.

The business community here is baffled by what is described as the incredible behaviour of the British stock market.

The pound has lost a lot of ground on foreign exchange markets, but foreign exchange dealers say the pound is only one of the number of European currencies which lost ground to the strengthening U.S. dollar.

It is believed that many deposits of Arab oil revenue in sterling are being switched to dollars. However, the scale of fall in share prices and the talk about financial institutions and industrial companies also contributed to the selling pressure on the pound.

There is anxiety in British Government circles that further pressure on the pound would have a progressive effect on import prices and thus on the British cost of living. British and European financial observers feel that the main hope for the pound and to a lesser extent other EEC currencies is that the strength of the dollar will persuade the U.S. Federal Reserve to relax its present tight money policies.

But the root cause of the incredible fall in the value of British shares and the pound is that investors, both local and foreign, feel convinced that the British Government is totally incapable of curbing the rate of inflation which is fast corroding the British economic structure.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 22, 1924

Bengal Council.

Calcutta, August 21: During the next session, the Bengal Legislative Council will devote 26th and 27th to official and 28th and 29th to non-official business. The Bengal tenancy Amendment Bill and Howrah Bridge Bill will be introduced by the Government. Two non-official Bills namely Bengal Fish Fry Preservation Bill and Calcutta Improvement Amendment Bill 1924 will also be introduced.

From Page One

Centre debates taking a caste count amid Census

The Census, last held in 2011, was to undertaken in two phases: houselisting and housing schedule in 2020 and population enumeration in 2021, but it was indefinitely delayed, initially due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The National Population Register (NPR) is also to be updated simultaneously with the first phase of the Census.

First digital census

The next Census will also be the first digital Census where respondents will have the option to fill the questionnaire on their own.

The deadline to freeze administrative boundaries of districts, tehsils, towns and municipal bodies, among others, lapsed on June 30 this year. The order to freeze the boundaries, usually issued three months before the first phase of Census, has been extended 10 times since 2019.

Bihar was one of the first States to conduct and publish a caste census report in 2023. Collected in offline and digital modes, the enumerators were given a list of 215 categories, from which people had to choose their caste.

Earlier in 2015, the Congress government in Karnataka commissioned a caste census, the report of which has not been made public so far.

31 questions

The 31 questions for the first phase – houselisting and housing schedule – were notified on January 9, 2020. As many as 28 questions have been finalised for the second phase – population enumeration – but are yet to be notified. The final set of questions for both the phases were asked during a pre-test exercise in 2019 in 76 districts in 36 States and Union Territories, covering a population of more than 26 lakh.

17 workers killed as fire breaks out after blast

Many workers from surrounding pharma companies, residents from Lalam Koduru, Maturu, and SEZ Colony, members of workers' unions, leaders from the CITU, CPI(M) and other parties reached the factory and expressed anger at the management for its alleged violation of safety norms. Family members of the workers were inconsolable.

"It has been over six hours since the accident occurred, but till now there is no clarity regarding the death toll and injured workers. Though such accidents have been occurring frequently, no measures have been taken. Do our lives matter," a furious pharma worker asked.

CITU district vice-president Ganisetti Satyanarayana said such a major accident had not occurred in recent times. He said 12 fire tenders were engaged in dousing the fire for over six hours, but still the firemen were not able to bring the situation under control.

CPI(M) Anakapalli district secretary K. Lokanadham said repeated accidents had been occurring due to alleged negligence and apathy of the managements. The previous governments had not bothered and failed to take stringent measures. It had been several years since a safety audit was conducted.

"Only during such accidents, the authorities form committees. Later the reports of the committees are ignored," he alleged.

Spread across 40 acres, Escientia Advanced Sciences was set up at the Atchutapuram SEZ in 2019 with a budget of around ₹200 crore. The company manufactures active pharmaceutical ingredients (API).

Police teams with forensic experts were at the site and an investigation is on.

PM begins Poland visit, says it will help forge more vibrant relations

It is the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister in 45 years; Modi interacts with the Indian diaspora in Warsaw; pays homage to Jam Saheb of Nawanagar at his memorial and to Indian and Polish soldiers who fought in the Second World War

Dinakar Peri
WARSAW

Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Warsaw on Wednesday, the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Poland in 45 years.

Mr. Modi expressed confidence that the visit will serve as a "natural continuation of extensive contacts" between the two countries and help create the foundation for stronger and more vibrant relations in the years ahead. He will visit Ukraine next.

"My visit to Poland comes as we mark 70 years of our diplomatic relations. Poland is a key economic partner in Central Europe. Our mutual commitment to democracy and pluralism further reinforces our relationship. I look forward to meeting my friend Prime Minister Donald Tusk and President Andrzej Duda to further advance our partnership. I will also engage with the members of the vibrant Indian community in Poland," Mr. Modi said in a statement before he emplaned for Poland.

Warm welcome: Prime Minister Narendra Modi being received by Poland's Deputy Foreign Minister Władysław T. Bartoszewski on his arrival in Warsaw on Wednesday. ANI

Mr. Modi landed in Warsaw around 2 p.m. and was welcomed by members of the Indian community as he arrived at the hotel. There was a *Garbha* performance by an Indo-Polish group. One community member, Sahiba Patni, an entrepreneur based in London, flew down just to see Mr. Modi.

In his first engagement, Mr. Modi laid a wreath at the memorial to Jam Saheb Digvijaysinhji Ranjitsinhji Jadeja of Nawanagar, Gujarat who provided sanctuary to over 1,000 Polish students in the 1940s. In his honour, a square in the heart of Warsaw has been named "Dobrego Maharadzy" or "Good Maharaja Square".

Mr. Modi later paid homage at the monument for the Battle of Monte Cassino. The monument honours Indian and Polish soldiers who fought in the battle that took place in Italy between January and May 1944 and was one of the defining battles of the Second World War.

Mr. Modi also laid a wreath at the Kolhapur memorial at the same location and also interacted with those who found shelter in India in the 1940s and their family members.

The Battle of Monte Cassino was one of the major battles fought and won by the Polish forces (as part of the larger Allied powers) in Italy against the Axis forces, said Krzysztof Iwanek, an Indologist and Asia Coordinator at the Warsaw-based Foundation Institute for Eastern Studies.

"It is remembered as one of the glorious moments in the history of Polish military. Altogether, I think it is a good place for India's PM to pay his respects," he told *The Hindu*.

On the significance of Mr. Modi's visit to Poland, Mr. Iwanek observed that this visit, as he understands, will have main two angles. "New Delhi's balancing act between the West and Russia (as PM Modi visited Russia recently and will visit Ukraine after Poland)," he said.

"As far as the second aspect is concerned, I would hope that opportunities for deepening trade and investments will be discussed, especially with Poland being a part of the EU, and the EU being currently in negotiations with India regarding a possible investment deal and a separate FTA deal," he added.

Rajnath to go to U.S. as mega defence deals near closure

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is set to visit the U.S. from August 23 to 26. This comes as several high-end defence deals between India and U.S, are in the final stages of conclusion.

The visit comes as several high end defence deals are lined up as also friction over issues like Prime Minister's visit to Russia and the Pannun episode. In addition, a key concern for the Defence Ministry at the moment is delay in deliveries from General Electric (GE) of the F404 engines for the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)-Mk1A which has held up deliveries of the jets by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to the Indian Air Force (IAF).

During the visit, Mr. Singh will hold a bilateral meeting with his U.S. counterpart Secretary Lloyd Austin and will also meet the U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan.

Mr. Singh will also chair a high-level round-table meeting with the U.S. defence industry on the ongoing and future defence collaborations. He will also interact with the Indian community during visit.

No let-up in protests across Kolkata; Governor meets family of victim

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Twelve days after the rape and murder of a doctor at the R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital, there has been no let-up in protests, with over a dozen rallies organised across Kolkata on Wednesday.

West Bengal Governor C. V. Ananda Bose visited the residence of the victim and met her family. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had visited the residence of the victim on August 12.

As political parties, particularly the BJP, took to the streets demanding the resignation of the Chief Minister, doctors marched to Swastha Bhavan, headquarters of the State Health Department. Among those protesting and bringing out processions were sports personalities, engineers, and journalists.

Former sportspersons stage a protest in Kolkata on Wednesday demanding justice for the victim. DEBASISH BHADURI

Even as the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) questioned Sanjib Kumar Ghosh, the former principal of the hospital for the fifth consecutive day, former deputy superintendent of the hospital Akhtar Ali moved the Calcutta High Court demanding an investigation by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) into the alleged financial irregularities by the former principal.

Justice Rajarshi Bharadwaj granted permission to Mr. Ali to file the petition, seeking an order directing the ED to probe alleged financial irregularities against Dr. Ghosh.

While the Kolkata Police had arrested a civic police volunteer, Sanjay Roy, in connection with the crime, the former principal of the college has remained in the eye of the storm as several allegations have been raised against him.

The West Bengal government has set up a Special Investigation Team to probe the alleged financial irregularities and has booked the former principal on charges of graft.

The Trinamool Congress leadership has also raised questions on the CBI investigation.

During the day, senior officials of the CISF arrived at the medical college and held meetings with the police and hospital authorities on deployment of Central forces on the premises.

Delighted by Modi's visit to Ukraine, says senior U.S. official

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Richard Verma

Expressing "delight" at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "important visit" to Kyiv this week, a senior U.S. official, who is visiting New Delhi, said it is clear that the global community has taken a stand against Russia's war in Ukraine.

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State and former U.S. Ambassador to India Richard Verma was given additional charge as the U.S.'s Special Representative for Ukraine's Economic Recovery last week, and had travelled to India and Nepal for meetings. His comments came weeks after a series of critical remarks by the U.S. State Department over Mr. Modi's visit to Moscow on July 9, indicating that Mr. Modi's decision to travel to Poland and Ukraine has now been appreciated in Washington.

"I am delighted about this visit and I think it is an important visit," Mr. Verma said, speaking at a discussion on "The United States and India: A Partnership of Progress and Promise", held at the Delhi-based Centre For Social and Economic Progress (CSEP), where he laid out recent developments in the bilateral relationship. "What we have witnessed over the last two-and-a-half years is an attempt by Russia to destabilise the global order, to upend the post World War system," he added, accusing Russia of annexing Ukrainian territory in contravention of international law.

"We understand India's long relationship with Russia, and India has to make its own determination of where it wants to be on the scale," Mr. Verma said, while praising Mr. Modi's statement that this is not a "time for war". "But this is a very consequential period for the defence of liberty, freedom and the rule of law," he added, saying later that he "looked forward to the outcomes" of Mr. Modi's Kyiv visit.

The Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has thus far made no comment about Mr. Modi's visit to Ukraine, that comes as the Ukrainian army has reportedly made advances into Russia's Kursk region.

The Russian Embassy in India also did not offer a response to Mr. Verma's comments.

In his talk, Mr. Verma covered a number of areas where Indian and U.S. ties have grown in the past few years, making a special mention of joint projects in climate change, advanced technologies, space and cancer research.

Rana extradition

Meanwhile, in response to a question about the long-pending Indian request for the extradition of Tahawwur Hussain Rana, wanted as a co-conspirator in the 2008 Mumbai attack, a U.S. Embassy official confirmed that a U.S. court had rejected his appeal.

"We're fortunate to have an extradition agreement with the Government of India that allows for extradition between our countries. His [Rana's] lawyers filed an appeal that you saw was rejected by the courts," U.S. Embassy spokesperson Chris Elms said, speaking at the same event.

He added that the "case continues to proceed in the legal system in the United States", but didn't furnish details over how much longer it could take for Rana, who has been in custody in a Los Angeles jail since 2020 pending the extradition hearings, to be handed over to India to face trial here.

Social media firms told to remove posts naming victim

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Electronics and Information Technology Ministry on Wednesday ordered social media platforms to remove posts naming the victim of the alleged rape and murder at a Kolkata hospital on August 9.

The order to platforms comes as an enforcement of Supreme Court directions issued on Tuesday, after two lawyers approached the court regarding the wide circulation of the victim's name, and images of her body after the incident.

The trainee doctor's identity has been spread on social media, in spite of laws that forbid the disclosure of the identity of sexual assault victims.

The Ministry also directed social media companies to submit a compliance report.

Dalit, tribal organisations protest against SC's sub-quota decision

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI/PATNA/BHOPAL

Coalition groups representing more than 21 Dalit and Adivasi associations on Wednesday held protest marches and rail and road blockades against the Supreme Court's August 1 judgment on the sub-classification of Scheduled Castes. They demanded that the Centre clear its stand on sub-categorisation, bring a law to "nullify" the judgment, and conduct a caste census to reveal the "real situation" of different castes in India.

Earlier in the day, Union Minister Chirag Paswan joined a host of prominent Opposition leaders from across parties to support the peaceful protests against the Supreme Court's judgment allowing sub-categorisation of the SC quota, saying on Wednesday that he and his party – the Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas), an NDA ally – "morally supported" the protests against the "Supreme Court's decision on SC-ST reservation".

Bhim Army chief Chandra Shekhar Aazad with others during a protest at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Wednesday. PTI

While normal life was affected in Bihar and Jharkhand, where the police resorted to baton charging protesters and using water cannons, other States like Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Odisha, Gujarat saw these outfits take out protest marches in several districts. Many protesters alleged violence by the police in Uttar Pradesh.

As the protests continued through the day, the central leaderships of principal Opposition parties – the Congress and the Samajwadi Party – expressed support for the protests while also maintaining their ambiguity on the core issue of sub-categorisation of SC and ST quotas; whereas smaller parties like the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), Azad Samaj Party, and Bharat Adivasi Party wholeheartedly opposed sub-categorisation, with many prominent Bahujan leaders in the North too supporting the protests.

Congress leader Pawan Khera, in a statement, said, "People from SC/ST/OBC are always being kept anxious about one thing or the other and this anxiety about the Centre's intent is there amongst them. And it is their right to protest peacefully against what they consider incorrect."

Meanwhile, Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal told presspersons that the Centre had already clarified its stand on the "creamy layer" observations of some judges, reiterating the government's stand that the order was meant for the States.

(With inputs from PTI)

'Khedkar's fraud affected other UPSC aspirants too'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) on Wednesday opposed an anticipatory bail plea by former IAS probationer Puja Khedkar, accused of cheating and wrongly availing OBC and disability quota benefits, before the Delhi High Court saying she committed a fraud against the commission and the public.

"The gravity of the fraud committed is unprecedented in nature having been committed against not only a constitutional body but also against the public at large, including the citizens who have utmost faith upon the credibility of the UPSC," the UPSC said.

On Wednesday, the court extended the interim protection from arrest granted to Ms. Khedkar till August 29.

Kharge, Rahul reach J&K, to hold talks with NC leaders

Big welcome: Rahul Gandhi waves at party supporters outside the Srinagar airport on Wednesday. IMRAN NISSAR

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Top Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi arrived in Srinagar on Wednesday on a two-day visit ahead of the first-ever Assembly election in Jammu and Kashmir after it was made a Union Territory.

Their visit comes in the midst of hectic backchannel dialogue between the Congress and the National Conference (NC) to iron out details regarding a pre-poll alliance for the election to be held next month.

Mr. Kharge and Mr. Gandhi received a rousing reception from Congress supporters on their arrival in Srinagar. They met Congress leaders from J&K, including State president Tariq Hameed Karra and Ghulam Ahmad Mir, for their inputs on the "poll strategy for the upcoming Assembly election".

"Mr. Khargeji and Rahul Gandhiji will be visiting Jammu and Srinagar for key meetings in preparation for the upcoming Assembly election," Congress general secretary K.C. Venugopal said.

Party sources said there were "a few sticky points" between the Congress and the NC regarding a pre-poll alliance, as negotiations between second-rung leadership were on for a few days. The sticky points might be left to the top leadership of the Congress and the Abdullahs of the NC to find a solution, they added.

Decision tomorrow

Sources said Mr. Gandhi, who is likely to open direct channels of communications with the Abdullahs, will announce a final decision on the pre-poll alliance by Friday.

The Congress is demanding a significant share of seats from the Kashmir Valley, which has 47 Assembly segments. However, the NC is more keen on a pre-poll alliance in the Jammu region, which has 43 seats.

A proposal to have a friendly contest for many Kashmir seats was also discussed in the backchannel dialogue, sources said.

The NC and the Congress – both INDIA bloc partners – had entered into a pre-poll alliance during the Lok Sabha election in J&K earlier this year.

The Congress fielded candidates from the two Lok Sabha seats in the Jammu region, while the NC contested from the three seats in the Kashmir Valley. The two jointly managed to get the highest vote share of 41.6%, with 21.45 lakh voters voting for them

PDP ready to strike pre-poll alliance with Congress

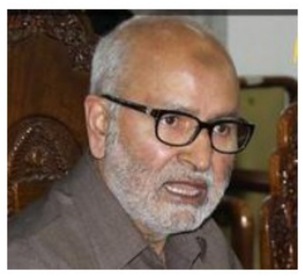
Rahul is an impactful voice who can raise issues of Kashmir, work towards broader coalition, says PDP leader; the tough times 'demand a unified voice outside and inside the Assembly', he says

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) on Wednesday kept its doors open to engage the Congress for talks on a pre-poll coalition for the Assembly election in J&K, and described visiting Congress leader Rahul Gandhi "as an impactful voice who could raise issues of Kashmir and work towards broader coalition in J&K".

"Mr. Gandhi has emerged as an impactful voice and is able to create a new atmosphere in the country. If Mr. Gandhi is able to connect with local voices in J&K and offer the role of hand-holding, the PDP is always open to the idea," PDP leader Naeem Akhtar told *The Hindu*, in an interview.

Mr. Akthtar, considered close to PDP president Mehbooba Mufti, said the tough times Kashmir was going through "demand a unified voice outside and inside the Assembly".



> Kashmir needs to be a bridge between India and Pakistan and not a battlefield....we are ready for an engagement with the Congress
>
> **NAEEM AKHTAR**
> PDP leader

"All local parties in J&K are on the same page today. It was evident from the National Conference manifesto. It reflected the essence of what PDP founder Mufti Muhammad Sayeed advocated since 2002. Kashmir needs to be a bridge between India and Pakistan and not a battlefield," Mr. Akhtar said.

He asked Mr. Gandhi to play a role at the crucial juncture of Kashmir's history.

"The Congress has been responsible for Kashmir joining India. It's the moral responsibility of the Congress to bring us out from the dark pit we have been pushed into. Mr. Gandhi and his party should accept Kashmir as a moral question," Mr. Akhtar said.

The PDP leader dropped broad hints at a pre-poll alliance with the Congress "to form a joint front" against the BJP.

"We are ready for an engagement with the Congress," Mr. Akhtar said.

He said it was Ms. Mufti who set the stage for coalition in J&K on August 4, 2019.

"She knocked on the doors of senior leaders, including Dr. Abdullah, J&K Peoples Conference president Sajad Lone etc. to join hands against the tsunami unleashed against J&K. It was a functional and vast State showcasing diverse identities from Muslims to Buddhists to Hindus. J&K is pushed into a deep gorge and punished apparently for being home to the majority of Muslims," Mr. Akhtar said.

"The regional parties have no ground to fight against each other, given we all are at the bottom of the dark pit," he added.

He asked Mr. Gandhi to speak about the issues of Kashmir. "Only Mr. Gandhi could make issues of Kashmir as national issues," Mr. Akhtar said.

Mr. Gandhi is likely to hold a series of meetings with senior party leaders and later with the National Conference (NC) leaders, Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah. The two parties are already holding backchannel meetings to finalise seat-sharing arrangements in J&K.

'151 MPs, MLAs have declared cases related to crimes against women'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Sixteen MPs and 135 MLAs have declared that they have cases related to crimes against women registered against them. The largest number of such lawmakers are from West Bengal, according to a report.

The report is based on an analysis of 755 out of 776 affidavits of MPs and 3,938 out of 4,033 of MLAs from all 28 States and eight Union Territories in the past five years.

The report, prepared by the Association for Democratic Reforms and National Election Watch, also includes affidavits submitted for bypolls held during this period following resignation, death or vacancy due to any other reason.

Among political parties, the Bharatiya Janata Party has the highest number of MPs or MLAs with such cases registered against them at 54, followed by the Congress with 23.

Among the States, West Bengal has the highest number of MPs or MLAs with these cases against them at 25. The report says that there are two MPs and 14 MLAs who have declared cases related to rape under Section 376 of the Indian Penal Code, which carries a minimum sentence of 10 years and can be extended to life imprisonment.

The charges include repeated offences against the same victim, it said.

INBRIEF

Jailed MP Rashid's brother quits govt. job to support AIP

Sheikh Khursheed, brother of jailed MP Engineer Rashid (in picture), has quit government service in north Kashmir to widen the base of the Rashid-headed Awami Ittehad Party (AIP) ahead of the Assembly election in J&K. "I have quit the government job to strengthen the party. I am not sure whether I will contest myself or not," Mr. Khursheed said. The leaders of AIP are hopeful to see Mr. Rashid out of jail, after the AIP chief submitted a regular bail application in Delhi's Patiala House court on Wednesday. Mr. Rashid was arrested in 2019 in an alleged terror funding case of 2017.

Halt declaration of Haryana recruitment drive results: EC

The Election Commission of India on Wednesday asked the Haryana government not to declare the results of the recruitment drive for teachers and police constables in the State till the completion of the Assembly election, in order to ensure a level playing field for all political parties. The EC, however, said that the recruitment process does not violate Model Code of Conduct guidelines. Haryana will have a single phase election on October 1, with the results to be declared on October 4. The EC was acting on complaints made by Congress leader Jairam Ramesh.

J&K election body sets up centres to monitor fake news

Command-and-control centres have been set up in the offices of the Chief Electoral Officer at Jammu and Srinagar to initiate "strict and prompt action against any suspected case of fake news" during the J&K Assembly elections. "To curb the spread of misinformation and uphold the integrity of the electoral process in the upcoming Assembly Elections in J&K, Command-and-Control Centres have been set up in the offices of the Chief Electoral Officer at Jammu and Srinagar ," an official said. These centres will be equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure and latest technologies.

Why isn't CCI scrutinising Adani Group, asks Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday questioned the Competition Commission of India (CCI) over its approval of all acquisitions by the Adani Group, alleging that the conglomerate is building monopolies across key infrastructure sector to the detriment of customers.

The Congress statement came on a day when it held press conferences across 10 cities on the Adani group.

In a post on X, Congress communications chief Jairam Ramesh referred to the CCI raising concerns over the proposed Reliance-Disney merger owing to the possibility that it would stifle competition. "It is a good time to reflect on how the CCI should have also had the courage to address how the non-biological PM's other favourite business conglomerate is acquiring companies and reducing competition across various industries," Mr. Ramesh said.

He pointed out that the CCI is legally mandated to approve mergers and acquisitions that exceed a certain threshold size. "Yet, all acquisitions by the Adani Group have been approved, even as the company builds monopolies in sectors like ports, airports, and power often through threats and intimidation that have the backing of the powers-that-be," Mr. Ramesh alleged.

HANDLOOMS & TEXTILES DEPARTMENT, GOVT. OF ANDHRA PRADESH
O/o. The Commissioner of Handlooms & Textiles, IHC Corporate Buildings, Mangalagiri, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh, Pin:522503

Tender Notice No. 01/Commissioner, H&T/2024-25, Dated:21.08.2024
Name of work: Construction of Unity Mall in 5.00 Acres of land at Survey No.426/2 of Madhurawada Revenue Village, Visakhapatnam Rural Mandal, Visakhapatnam District: **ECV: Rs.1,09,11,92,006/-**
Date of Publication : 21.08.2024 at 05:00 PM
Last date submission of bids : 04.09.2024 up to 05:00 PM.
Sd/- Commissioner, Handlooms & Textiles Dept.
The details of tender notice and bid document can be downloaded from website https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in wherein select Department as "AP Industrial Infrastructure Corporation Ltd."
DIPR 3129PP/CL, Dt: 21/08/2024

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.
(Regd. Office PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala)
Corporate Identification Number: U40109PB010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in (Contact Number. 9646117607)
TENDER Inquiry No. 79/CHP/OP-321/GHTP/2024-25 Dated: 20/08/2024
Dy.CE/MM-II/GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat invites E-tender for the work of "Providing support at the vital location/equipments for operation of coal handling plant as per scope of work on Stage-I & II at CHP, GHTP, Lehra Mohabat".
For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 20/08/2024 from 17:00 PM onwards.
Note: Corrigendum and addendum if any, will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in
GHTP - 69/24 76155/12/3317/2023/36863

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
(WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT)
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF RESEARCH OFFICER
HYDRAULICS DIVISION No.1, K.E.R.S., K.R.SAGARA 571607, KARNATAKA
(Phone and fax: 08236-297253, Email: crohvd1krs@gmail.com)
No:CRO/KERS/HYD/PB/SCADA/ Rate.Enquiry.Quotation/254/2024-25
Date: 19.08.2024
QUOTATION NOTIFICATION FOR RATE ENQUIRY
Competitive quotations from prospective bidders are invited by this office for adopting the rates in the estimate for 'Canal Automation Facility (SCADA) at Hydraulics Division, KERS' under the work of "Upgradation of Hydraulics Division Dam Models at KERS, K.R.Sagara (Package 2) under World Bank aided DRIP- Phase-II". Item wise description of the work can be obtained from **https://waterresources.karnataka.gov.in/info-4/Procurements/en.** The Rate quotations shall be sent to this office email address through open email or sealed quotations through post or courier or by-hand addressed to "The Chief Research Officer, Hydraulics Division, No.1, KERS, Krishnarajasagara-571607" so as to reach on or before 4.00 PM of 31/08/2024. Further details can be obtained from the under signed during Office hours.
Sd/- Chief Research Officer, Hydraulics Division No. 1, K.E.R.S., K.R.Sagara
DIPR/AD-MDY/KSMCA/266/2024-25

Kerala Development and Innovation Strategic Council (K-DISC),
India Heights Building, Govt Women's College Road, Vazhuthacadu, Thycadu P O, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
Email: ms@kdisc.kerala.gov.in
Quotation Notice Number: 2427/2024/KDISC
Quotations are invited from manufacturers/suppliers for supply of 10 kg, NMC 811 cathode material for LTO - NMC Cells. **Bid submission end date 05/09/2024, 5.00 pm.**
For more details: 9188617402, 8547510783
Website: www.kdisc.kerala.gov.in **Member Secretary**
D3/503/2024/I&PRD

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Ph:(+)91-40-23253606 Fax:(+)91-40-23456687 email:spp.hyd@spmcil.com
Website: https://spphyderabad.spmcil.com
No. SPP/HR/2024-25/1784 Date: 21-08-2024
VACANCY NOTICE
Security Printing Press, Hyderabad invites applications for filling up following post on fixed tenure contract basis for one year as per details given below:

Sl. No.	Name of post	No. of vacancies	Consolidated remuneration (p.m.)	Upper Age limit (as on last date of application)
1	Medical Officer	01	Rs. 63,000/-	64 Years

For complete details such as Qualification, age, experience, selection process, general information & instructions and other details including application form, please visit our website **https://spphyderabad.spmcil.com**.
Any change or Amendment to this vacancy notice will be posted on the SPP Hyd website only
Sd/-
Addl. General Manager (HR) & HOO
(For Chief General Manager)

Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMCL)
Assuring Quality, Saving Lives
In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit-III, Bhubaneswar-751 007
Tel.: 0674 - 2380608 / 2380662; Website: www.osmcl.nic.in ; Email: qaosmcl.od@nic.in
NOTICE FOR E-INVITATION OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR EMPANELMENT OF DRUG TESTING LABORATORIES
EOI Ref.No. : OSMCL/QA/EOI/01/2024-25 Date : 22.08.2024
Online Bids through **e-Tender portal (https://tendersodisha.gov.in)** are invited from interested bidders for **Empanelment of Drug Testing Laboratories** as per the particulars mentioned below :

Sl. No.	Particulars	Date and Time	
1.	Date & time of release of bid	22.08.2024, 3 PM	
2.	Date & time of Pre-offer meeting	28.08.2024, 12:00 PM Venue: Conference Hall, Odisha State Medical Corporation Ltd., Convent Square, Unit-III, Bhubaneswar	
3.	Date & time of Online bid submission	Start Date & Time	End Date & Time
		04.09.2024, 3 PM	24.09.2024, 6 PM
4.	Date & Time for submission of EOI Documents as per Section-IV of EOI documents.	25.09.2024, 10 AM	04.10.2024 till 11 AM
5.	Date & time of Online Technical bid Opening	04.10.2024, 11:30 AM	
6.	Date of opening of Price Bid	To be informed to the qualified bidders	

The EOI document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of EOI document, EMD, Pre-qualification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites: **www.osmcl.nic.in** and **https://tendersodisha.gov.in** . The Authority reserves the right to accept / reject any part thereof or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.
Sd/- Managing Director, OSMCL, Odisha
CAD-885 OIPR-10112/11/0007/2425

RESPECTFUL HOMAGE & FOND REMEMBRANCE
13.02.1918 22.08.1998

Shri. **B.R. KAMDAR**
KAMDAR FAMILY WITH STAFF & MANAGEMENT OF
NADI AIRTECHNICS PVT. LTD.
NADI TECHNOLOGIES PVT. LTD.

CENTRAL MINE PLANNING & DESIGN INSTITUTE LIMITED
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)
Gondwana Place, Kanke Road, Ranchi-834008, Jharkhand, India
NOTICE
"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on websites of Coal India Ltd. **www.coalindia.in** /respective Subsidiary Company (CMPDI, **www.cmpdi.co.in**), CIL e-procurement portal **https://coalindiatenders.nic.in** and Central Public Procurement Portal **https://eprocure.gov.in.** In addition, procurement is also done through GeM Portal **https://gem.gov.in**"

OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF, RURAL WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION,
JAL "O" PARIMAL BHAWAN, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR-751001, ODISHA
Tel: 0674-2395734, FAX: 0674-2394946, e-mail: cerwssodisha@gmail.com
Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) - NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING
BID IDENTIFICATION NO. EIC/RWS&S/02/2024-25 - NO. 8901 Date: 20.08.2024
The Engineer-in-Chief, RWS&S, Odisha, Bhubaneswar, on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites tenders in double cover system in ONLINE MODE only (from Registered Manufacture/ Authorized distributor/ Dealer) for Supply of Field-Testing Kits (FTK) 7000 nos. in different districts in the State.

1.	Cost of Bid Document	:	Rs. 10,000/- (non-refundable) to be remitted in online
2.	Class of Cotractor	:	Registered manufacturers / Authorized distributor / Dealer
3.	Availability of Bid Documents in the portal for Online Bidding	:	From 5 PM of 28.08.2024 to 17 hours of 18.09.2024.
4.	Date and place of pre bid meeting	:	At 11.30 A.M on dt. 04.09.2024 in the office of the EIC, RWS&S, Odisha, Bhubaneswar
5.	Date & Place of Receipt of hard copy of bid documents	:	19.09.2024 up to 17 hours in the Office of the EIC, RWS&S, Odisha, Bhubaneswar
6.	Date of opening of Bid in Online	:	20.09.2024 at 15 hours
7.	Mode of submission of tender	:	Tenders should be submitted online in www.tendersorissa.gov.in
8.	Name & address of Officer Inviting Bid	:	Engineer-in-Chief, RWS&S, Jal "O" Parimal Bhawan, Unit-V, Bhubaneswar Ph: 0674-2395734 / 0674- 2531533, e-mail:cerwssodisha@gmail.com
9.	The bidders have to participate in ONLINE Bidding only for which the bidder must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class II or Class III. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal http://tendersorissa.gov.in		
10	Subsequent corrigendum if required shall be appeared in website		
11	Authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.		

Name & address of officer inviting Bid : Engineer-in-Chief, RWSS Jal "O" Parimal Bhawan, Unit-V, Bhubaneswar. Ph: 0674-2395734/ 0674-2531533. e-mail: cerwssodisha@gmail.com
Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal : http://tendersodisha.gov.in
O-208: Engineer-in-Chief, RWSS
OIPR-25040/11/0002/2425

INBRIEF

SC to decide if LMV licence includes transport vehicles

A Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud reserved its judgment on the question whether a person holding a driving licence for a light motor vehicle (LMV) is entitled to drive a transport vehicle with an unladen weight not exceeding 7,500 kg. The reference to the five-judge Bench followed disputes over payment of claims by insurance companies in accident cases involving transport vehicles being driven by those possessing licences to drive LMVs. The courts have been adopting a pro-insured approach while deciding insurance claim disputes, the insurance firms have said.

Masked men fire at house of Manipur college principal

The house of a college principal in Manipur has been attacked twice in a month. The police said two scooter-borne masked men fired five rounds from automatic weapons at the house of Wahengbam Nimai, the principal of Kamakhya Pemton College in Bishnupur, on Tuesday evening. No one claimed responsibility for the attack. On July 17, miscreants lobbed a hand grenade near the gate of the principal's residence. It failed to explode and was disposed of by a special squad. No group claimed responsibility for that attack too, although lobbing grenades has been associated with extortion by extremist outfits in the past.

Search for missing plane continues in Jharkhand

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

A two-seater aircraft that went missing in Jamshedpur on Monday is yet to be located. The search and rescue operations on Wednesday failed to trace either the aircraft debris or its occupants.

On Monday, the Cessna 152 aircraft of flying training school Alchemist Aviation took off from the Sonari aerodrome in Jamshedpur around 10 a.m. with an instructor and trainee pilot aboard. Later, it vanished off the Ranchi radar and is suspected to have crashed.

"We are still into the search operation. Some eyewitnesses claimed that they saw the aircraft falling into the Chandil dam. We have called the National Disaster Response Force and they are searching for the aircraft," Deputy Commissioner of Seraikela-Kharsawan Ravi Shankar Shukla told *The Hindu* over phone.

It is not known why the Emergency Locator Transmitters (ELT) in the aircraft was not triggered. The device is designed to help rescuers find aircraft and people in distress after an aircraft hits terrain or drowns in a waterbody.

'WHO investigating suspected new polio strain in Meghalaya'

Health Department officials in Meghalaya have been on high alert since a poliomyelitis case was diagnosed in a two-year-old child from Tikrikilla

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Meghalaya Health Minister Mazel Ampareen Lyngdoh on Wednesday said the World Health Organization (WHO) was conducting a thorough investigation to determine if a new strain of polio has infected a two-year-old child at Tikrikilla in West Garo Hills district of the State.

Though the State government is awaiting the sample test reports from laboratories in Kolkata and Mumbai, the Union Health Ministry said the child's case was not that of wild polio but a vaccine-derived infection that presents in some people with low immunity. The test reports are expected by the end of the week.

"Another case has apparently been identified in some other State. It is a different strain of polio to my understanding but WHO is investigating the case further for certainty," Dr. Lyngdoh said.

She said the State government and the Health Department had been closely monitoring the situation at Tikrikilla, where people have a history of opposing vaccination. "The child is under observation and we are in touch with the family. The doctors attending to the child said the child is okay," she said, observing that the case may impact vaccination efforts in the future. The Minister did not rule out the possibility of the WHO issuing an advisory if the new strain is confirmed. The WHO declared India polio-free in 2014 after the last case of wild poliovirus was reported in 2011.

Health officials in Meghalaya have been on high alert after the emergence of the poliomyelitis case from Tikrikilla.

While the oral polio vaccine has helped eliminate wild polio, the live virus in the vaccine can mutate and lead to vaccine-derived poliovirus, which can cause polio in unvaccinated individuals or in areas with low immunisation coverage.

The WHO declared India polio-free in 2014 after the last case of wild poliovirus was reported in 2011. C. VENKATACHALAPATHY

Centre issues office memorandum on National Task Force

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Health Ministry on Wednesday issued an office memorandum for the constitution of the National Task Force (NTF) to formulate protocols governing the safety of doctors.

This is following a Supreme Court order on Tuesday.

The Cabinet Secretary will be the Chairperson of the task force that will provide recommendations regarding the safety, working conditions, and well-being of medical professionals and other related matters.

As per the memorandum, the NTF shall prepare an action plan categorised under two heads –prevention of violence against medical professionals, and providing safe working conditions and providing an enforceable national protocol for dignified and safe working conditions for interns, residents, senior residents, doctors, nurses, and all medical professionals.

Additionally, healthcare institutes are required to conduct workshops for all employees of medical establishments.

TISS Registrar Sutar appoints himself as administration head

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In an office order issued by himself, Anil Sutar, Registrar of the Mumbai-based Tata Institute of Social Sciences, has declared himself professor and head of administration.

Mr. Sutar, in the order, said the role of the officiating Registrar would now be discharged by Narendra Mishra, who will directly report to Mr. Sutar, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor, and the Vice-Chancellor. A faculty member, on condition of anonymity, said, "This is a case of Anil Sutar, making himself more powerful."

SC to examine need for environmental regulator

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Another regulator would only add another layer and cause duplication, says Additional Solicitor-General

The Supreme Court on Wednesday decided to examine the need for a 'permanent environmental regulator' similar to those found in the telecom and electricity sectors.

"There is a regulator in telecom [Telecom Regulatory Authority of India] and electricity [Central Electricity Regulatory Commission]...like that for climate and environment," said Justice K.V. Viswanathan, who was accompanying Justices B.R. Gavai and P.K. Mishra on the Bench. Justice Gavai was heading the Bench.

Amicus curiae, senior advocate K. Parameshwar, submitted that regulators in separate areas covering various fields of environment and climate change were operating in silos.

"Would Your Lordships combine all these regulators into a behemoth, which would do the overall monitoring?" Mr. Parameshwar asked.

Centre's view

Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati said the Union government had a "mixed response" to the issue.

Ms. Bhati said the existing system had specific regulators who were experts in their fields of environmental and climate change study.

There were several tiers in decision-making and review, including the Ministries concerned, the National Green Tribunal, the Central Empowered Committee and finally the Supreme Court itself.

"Another regulator would only add another layer. It would be a duplication, and anyway, issues have to go to experts. For wildlife, we have the standing committee of the National Board for Wildlife," Ms. Bhati explained.

The Bench decided to hear the issue extensively on November 20.

Mining activities

Justice Gavai's Bench, in a separate application, also asked the Centre to consider whether mining activities could be prohibited in areas declared conservation reserves and community reserves.

"We request the Union to consider whether at least in the areas which are declared as conservation reserves and community reserves, the mining could be prohibited or not," the Bench said.

'Manipur CM's audio clips establish his complicity'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Ten Kuki-Zo MLAs in Manipur issued a statement on Wednesday, saying they had taken note of the leaked audio clips, alleged to be of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh.

They said it established his complicity in the ethnic conflict "beyond an iota of doubt", demanding that the Commission of Inquiry set up by the Centre to expedite its process to prosecute Mr. Singh "for his crimes if his guilt is established". They also called for his removal as Chief Minister so that he can be stopped from "influencing the outcome of the probe against him".

They claimed the tapes' authenticity had been confirmed by Rojendro Nong, who the MLAs said, was Mr. Singh's brother.

72 held for rioting, damaging public property in Badlapur

Snehal Mutha
MUMBAI

Following the massive protest at the Badlapur railway station in Maharashtra's Thane district over the alleged sexual abuse of two four-year-old girls at a school, first information reports have been filed against at least 300 protesters and 72 have been arrested, the police said.

Sudhakar Pathare, Badlapur Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), told *The Hindu*, "Police arrested 40 people and 32 were held by the Government Railway Police. We are scrutinising the CCTV footage from the railway station and nearby locations to make more arrests. At least 15 police personnel were injured due to stone throwing."

Mr. Pathare said the arrested persons were charged under non-bailable Sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita for alleged rioting and damaging public property.

Police speak with people blocking railway tracks in protest against the alleged sexual assault incident of two minors in Badlapur ANI

'Delay' stirs protests

Thousands of people protested on Tuesday citing "delay" in the police registering complaint against the 24-year-old accused, who allegedly sexually abused two minors during school hours on August 12.

After his arrest on August 17, he was produced before a magistrate at Kalyan on Wednesday and sent to police custody till August 26.

Education Minister Deepak Kesarkar on Wednesday appointed a government administrator to manage the school.

The Maharashtra State Commission for Protection of Child Rights chief, Susieben Shah, highlighting the systemic failure in the Badlapur case, told *The Hindu* that notices were issued to the school and police officials to explain the delay in taking action.

Parties must brainstorm on women's safety: Rahul

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday said that crimes like the Badlapur sexual assault forces one to think "where are we heading as a society".

In a post on X, Mr. Gandhi said "all governments and parties need to brainstorm on what steps should be taken to provide a safe environment for women".

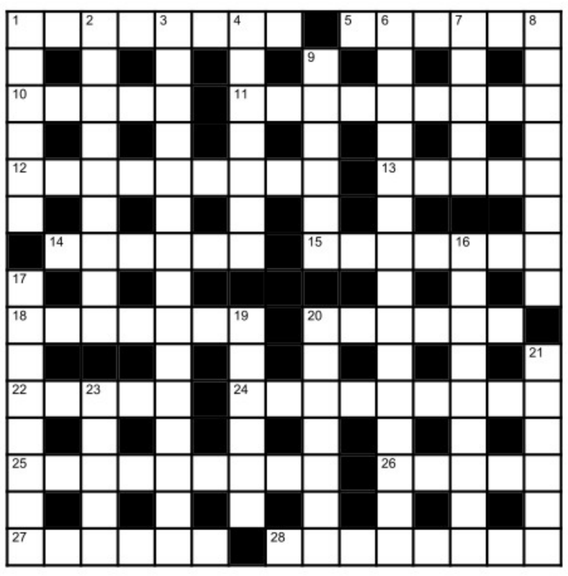
"After West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, the shameful crimes against young girls in Maharashtra also force us to think where are we heading as a society? After the crime against two innocents in Badlapur, the first step to give them justice was not taken until the public came out on the streets demanding justice," he said.

TH CROSSWORD + 14260

(set by Dr. X)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Most immature hanky-panky finally gets tongues wagging (8)
5 Embraced by chief for terrific work (6)
10 Complicated idea by unionist is so long (5)
11 Corrected errors by fellows before meeting held by editor (9)
12 Frantic with irritation after LSD at rave (4-5)
13 Developer illegally concealing hazard (5)
14 Mother turned miserable after eating a little rancid curry (6)
15 Small tapering objects around hundred candlesticks (7)
18 Recalled fling on island, captivated by woman in red (7)
20 Familiar with a book about origin of humans (2,4)
22 Recognise fish finally in aquarium (5)
24 Hearts captured by poor emigrant's ordeal (9)
25 Misbehaves in vehicle, upsetting senior (7,2)
26 Endure a little scare during flight (5)
27 Invests in US Energy foolishly after tip (6)
28 Enthralled by potions, she recollected ancient curses (8)

Down

1 Annual Day finally on first (6)
2 Partners crack system entirely to remove software from computer (9)
3 Bad knee, friend? Ought to have surgery (2,5,3,5)
4 Ruthless criminal runs away - getting bloodhounds (7)
6 Extremely annoyed as a result of overeating? (3,2,2,3,5)
7 Remote network device, unopened (5)
8 Agenda given by director in agency. it's elaborate (2-2,4)
9 Engages in drug abuse finally, crushed by failure (6)
16 Bell tower in base beside a river in Africa (9)
17 Rum, best with cola in bar (8)
19 Adoption of female dress by a male in some dances (6)
20 Half of army lost defending northern region of France (7)
21 The sad, horrific fatalities (6)
23 Biting cold in desert (5)

SUDOKU

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	6			5	2			
			1					
		8			1		9	2
	2	5				1	8	
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			7	8			5	
			3	6		2		1

No.SS6258 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

L	A	C	R	O	S	S	E		E	D	I	C	T	S
U		L		N		W		B		E		H		I
S	W	E	E	T	I	E		A	Y	N	R	A	N	D
T		R		H		D		T		E		N		E
R	O	G	U	E		I	N	H	A	B	I	T	E	D
E		Y		P		S		I				E		I
			W	I	T	H	O	N	E	S	E	Y	E	S
A		A		L		M		G		C		S		H
D	E	V	I	L	M	A	Y	C	A	R	E			
I		I				S		O		A		P		C
P	R	O	G	N	O	S	I	S		W	H	O	R	L
O		N		O		A		T		N		L		O
S	P	I	T	I	N	G		U	N	I	F	I	E	S
I		C		S		E		M		E		S		E
S	U	S	S	E	D		S	E	A	R	C	H	E	D

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

4	6	3	7	8	9	2	1	5
1	2	9	3	5	6	7	8	4
5	8	7	1	4	2	3	9	6
9	1	8	4	6	3	5	7	2
6	7	5	2	9	1	4	3	8
2	3	4	8	7	5	9	6	1
8	4	2	6	3	7	1	5	9
3	9	1	5	2	8	6	4	7
7	5	6	9	1	4	8	2	3

FAITH

Significance of prapatti

Bhakti and prapatti (surrender) are both ways to reach the Supreme One's feet. But there are inherent difficulties in bhakti as a means to attain moksha. Bhakti should be without a break, like the flow of oil. Our last thoughts, at the end of our lives, should be of Him. If the last thoughts are not about Him, then one's bhakti throughout one's life will not result in moksha. Considering these difficulties in bhakti as a means to liberation, we need something easier for us to practice. That is where total surrender scores, said Kazhiyur B. Devarajan in a discourse.

We have to admit to the Lord our own helplessness in attaining moksha, and seek His help. Having surrendered, we must not think of obtaining any result for ourselves. We are His property. In this case, the property, that is the atma, waits to be claimed by Him. There are no geographical or time constraints for surrender. Anyone can do saranagati. When we resort to other methods, we may not be sure of success. But in Saranagati, once a person surrenders, moksha is guaranteed. None can stop Lord Narayana once He decides to save us. But why would He want to save us, when we have accumulated a huge bundle of sins? He is like the royal elephant, which chooses the future king by garlanding him. The elephant may choose a totally unqualified person. None can question its choice.

INBRIEF

Sports brand Decathlon mulls €100 million India investment

Decathlon, a global multi-specialist sports brand, has announced to invest €100 million in India over the next five years. "This investment will be channelled towards expanding the store network to reach 190 stores across India, enhancing digital engagement, and deepening its commitment to local manufacturing," the company announced in New Delhi. "India has emerged as a pivotal market for Decathlon, exhibiting remarkable growth," it added.

NBFCs' growth to soften to 13-15% in FY25 from 18%: ICRA

Non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) will witness headwinds related to funding availability, which is likely to impede growth vis-a-vis the robust expansion in the last two fiscals, ICRA said on Wednesday. The credit rating agency projected the growth of NBFCs' assets under management (AUM) to ease to 13-15% in FY25 from 18% in FY24. Standing at about ₹47 lakh crore in March 2024, the sector's AUM is set to cross ₹50 lakh crore in FY25, it added.

TI Clean Mobility delivers 5,000th Montra electric auto

TI Clean Mobility Pvt. Ltd. announced it had delivered 5,000 Montra electric three-wheeler passenger autos within a year of its introduction across 74 markets spanning 17 States. "We are proud to have achieved this significant milestone of delivering 5,000 Super Autos within a year of our launch. This achievement is a testament to Montra Electric's dedication to driving the electric mobility revolution in India," said Montra Electric 3Ws Business Head Roy Kurian.

'Rapid e-com growth could hit millions of retail stores and jobs'

Goyal red flags predatory pricing policies, faster growth in high-margin items' online sales; questions some of Amazon's business practices

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

> They create entities where Indians contribute to the creation of those entities, then they get caught and shut down those entities
> **PIYUSH GOYAL**
> Commerce and Industry Minister

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Wednesday raised questions about the business and pricing strategies of major e-commerce players like Amazon in India, and dismissed a report that concluded e-tailers' growth did not pose a significant risk to employment opportunities in the country.

Although he acknowledged that e-commerce was here to stay, the Minister stressed that the sector's growth must be 'orderly' and 'citizen-centric', and its role must be cautiously mulled over.

"Are predatory pricing policies good for the country?... I don't see it as a matter of pride that half our market could be driven by e-commerce 10 years from now. It's a matter of concern," he said.

"Are we going to cause huge social disruption with this massive growth of e-commerce?" he asked, referring to the detrimental effects of online retailers eating into the business prospects of 100 million small retailers across the country.

Speaking at the release of a report on the "Net Impact of E-Commerce on Employment and Consumer Welfare in India", issued jointly by EY India and Pahle India Foundation, Mr. Goyal completely dissociated himself from its findings.

The report's conclusions seemed to be driven by the "urge to show" that e-commerce hasn't had an impact on employment, the Minister said.

Beyond traditional e-commerce, the Minister also flagged concerns about the impact of cloud kitchens and online food delivery apps on restaurants.

Amazon worries

"When Amazon says we are going to invest a billion dollars in India, and we all celebrate, we forget the underlying story that that billion dollars is not coming in for any great service or any great investment to support the Indian economy, they made a billion dollar loss in their balance sheet... If you make ₹6,000 crore in losses in one year, doesn't that smell of predatory pricing to any of you?" the Minister asked.

Noting that the company apparently spent $1 billion paying professionals in India, the Minister mused that the firm may have spent the money to retain the country's top lawyers "so there's nobody left to fight" against them.

"What is that loss? As an e-commerce platform, they are not allowed to do B2C [business to consumer] transactions," Mr. Goyal said, apparently referring to Press Note 3 of 2016, a regulation that prohibits e-commerce firms holding their own inventory of goods, from receiving foreign direct investment.

"They create entities where Indians contribute to the creation of those entities, then they get caught and shut down those entities. But they only re-route all the business through an entity to show that it's business to business," Mr. Goyal stressed.

"But the reality is all of you buy on these platforms. But B2C is not allowed on these platforms. How are they doing this? Should this not be a matter of concern for all of us?" the Minister underlined.

Corporate hiring slid steeply in FY24: BoB

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

Hiring by corporate India slowed dramatically in FY24, according to a study by Bank of Baroda (BoB), which noted that jobs grew by a mere 1.5% last year compared with 5.7% in FY23 among a sample of 1,196 firms. The sample included only large and medium firms.

The top five firms with the most headcount a year earlier ended up reporting lower employee numbers in FY24, according to BoB.

The bank said higher numbers in 2022-23 was on account of a lower base set by the pandemic. "A reason for this slowdown is that FY23 was the first post pandemic year when there was a certain degree of voluntary and involuntary displacement of staff. Therefore, there was a tendency for growth in employment to be higher in FY23 as activity was ramped up. The same necessity was not felt in FY24 resulting in a lower growth rate," BoB observed in its report.

Sectoral trends showed broad divergence with the highest job growth (in terms of head count) of about 19.4% seen in the retail sector. Headcount shrank the most in hospitality and logistics with a 12% dip in each industry.

Use simple language in tax notices, says FM

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Nirmala Sitharaman

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday asked tax officers to use simpler words in notices they send to taxpayers and exercise powers bestowed on them judiciously.

Addressing the 165th Income Tax Day celebrations, Ms. Sitharaman said after adopting the faceless regime, tax officers must now aspire to be more "fair and friendly" in their dealings with taxpayers.

Tax notices must not trigger a "sense of fear" among taxpayers. Instead, it must be straightforward, she added.

The notice must make "crystal clear" to the assessee the reason for it.

Ms. Sitharaman also sought refunds to be issued faster. She asked authorities to use enforcement measures as a last resort, adding the department's goal must be to encourage voluntary compliance.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	%CHANGE
Sensex	80,905	0.13
US Dollar	83.90	-0.15
Gold	74,150	0.00
Brent oil	76.44	-1.16

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	3115.70	45.05
Adani Ports	1503.50	10.95
Apollo Hosp	6752.45	79.55
Asian Paints	3151.55	48.35
Axis Bank	1174.40	6.40
Bajaj Auto	9852.00	72.30
Bajaj Finserv	1620.95	18.85
Bajaj Finance	6735.35	13.15
Bharti Airtel	1463.45	14.30
BPCL	351.20	1.80
Britannia Ind	5837.35	71.55
Cipla	1594.60	31.75
Coal India	532.20	7.60
Divis Lab	4900.80	177.65
Dr Reddys Lab	7062.45	97.10
Eicher Motors	4913.55	30.30
Grasim Ind	2684.85	48.15
HCL Tech	1677.25	-9.50
HDFC Bank	1625.80	-11.90
HDFC Life	724.55	13.95
Hero MotoCorp	5284.70	40.30
Hindalco	685.60	12.70
Hind Unilever	2791.20	40.15
ICICI Bank	1174.85	-4.60
IndusInd Bank	1384.00	2.70
Infosys	1872.70	0.50
ITC	505.40	6.60
JSW Steel	925.80	8.65
Kotak Bank	1812.95	7.30
L&T	3596.05	23.35
LTIMindtree Ltd.	5713.45	5.65
M&M	2769.40	-1.90
Maruti Suzuki	12220.95	6.00
NestleIndia	2551.75	33.25
NTPC	408.95	2.70
ONGC	327.70	-2.40
PowerGrid Corp	336.65	-3.85
Reliance Ind	2997.35	5.45
SBI Life	1800.60	39.30
State Bank	815.55	-4.75
Shriram Finance Ltd.	3159.05	-0.80
Sun Pharma	1764.65	-1.70
TataConsumerProduct	1177.55	6.35
Tata Motors	1085.20	-1.70
Tata Steel	151.92	-2.01
TCS	4551.50	28.20
Tech Mahindra	1604.65	-23.95
Titan	3560.40	85.50
UltraTech Cement	11200.90	-148.80
Wipro	526.35	1.70

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on August 21

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	83.72	84.04
Euro	93.06	93.43
British Pound	109.13	109.55
Japanese Yen (100)	57.30	57.53
Chinese Yuan	11.73	11.78
Swiss Franc	97.84	98.22
Singapore Dollar	64.05	64.30
Canadian Dollar	61.55	61.79
Malaysian Ringitt	19.10	19.21
Australian Dollar	56.42	56.64

Source:Indian Bank

Lack of industries in Bihar push youth to vie for government jobs

JOB SCENARIO

Amarnath Tewary

Cause for concern: Unemployment rate in Bihar was at 5.9%, higher than the national average of 4.1%, as per PLFS 2021-22. ANI

"Karo to sarkari naukari, nahi to becho tarkari" (do only government job, else sell vegetable), says Ranjeet Kumar (28), an unemployed youth, who, along with two female companions, spend three hours at a community park in Rajendra Nagar in Patna every evening to prepare for government jobs.

"Here in the park, there is a peaceful atmosphere to hold group discussions which help us prepare better for the job," they echoed looking at the question bank for Bihar government's Staff Selection Commission (SSC) exam.

Mr. Kumar had cracked the examination thrice but, somehow, couldn't make it to the final list.

'Huge pressure'

"Again I'm waiting for the final list, hoping to get through this time. Pressure from family to get a government job is so immense that for the last five years I've confined myself to a single room in Bahadurpur of Patna paying ₹6,000 as rent every month. He hails from Jhajha, some 300 km from Patna.

Asked why only a government job, Mr. Kumar sported a smile and responded quickly, "because there is nothing as permanent as a government job in the State and the country as well".

Agreeing with him is Arpana Barnwal (26) who has come to Patna from Bokaro in the neighboring State of Jharkhand to prepare for a government job.

"Age is running out, not for job but for marriage", she giggled and the "family pressure to get a job as early as possible is so intense that I came to Patna for better opportunities to prepare for government jobs and here, there is 33% reservation in jobs for women," she said.

She has to pay ₹3,500 as room rent in Patna's Kazipur locality of Macchuatoli area. Her friend and companion Preeti Kumari (30), who is married, had also cracked main examination for Police Sub-Inspector (SI) post twice but, 'unfortunately' she too couldn't make it to the final list.

She again is preparing for the job and unless she makes it to the final list, she asserted, she would keep trying for the government job.

'Rare opportunities'

"I along with my husband, who too is preparing for a government job, have come from Begusarai district and live in a rented room at Bazaar Samiti area of Patna for better preparation," she said, adding, "life is very very difficult without a government job in a place like Bihar where opportunities are very rare."

But what are these examinations? "We prepare for Bihar SSC, Bihar police -SI/Constable, Nursing, Teachers through Bihar Public Service Commission (BPSC), Assistant Section Officer in State Secretariat, Railways - loco-pilot and Group-D, National Thermal Power Corporation etc.," they said.

What do they expect the government to do? "First, they should strictly maintain the job calendar, stop regular exam paper leaks and the number of jobs must be increased."

Filling up posts

According to State Budget for the financial year 2023-24, requisition has been given for filling a total of 63,900 posts by BPSC, SSC and the Technical Service Commission.

Approval has been accorded for the creation of 75, 543 posts in State police services. According to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) for the year 2021-22, unemployment rate in Bihar was at 5.9%, higher than the national average of 4.1%. For the 15-29 age group, the unemployment rate was 20.1%, against the national average of 12.4%.

As per PLFS 20-21, the unemployment rate in the State was 4.6%. The Union government on July 29, cited data in Parliament stating Bihar had the lowest (25.6%) worker population ratio in 2021-22.

'Lack of industries'

Former director of Patna-based A. N. Sinha Institute of Social Sciences D. M. Diwakar told *The Hindu* that "the major reason behind high unemployment rate in Bihar is the lack of industries. So, agriculture continues to have a crucial space in the State's economy. Lack of employment opportunities have also pushed lakhs of migrants into leaving their native State for livelihood."

'No' clarity

He also asserted there has not been any "clarity in government, neither of State nor at the Centre on job creation."

"*Hindu rashtra banana hai to job create karne ki jarurat kya hai?* (when the agenda is to make Hindu nation, what is the need for job creation?)," he asked.

Economist and Associate Professor of Bihar Institute of Public Finance and Policy, Sudhanshu Kumar agreed, "employment scenario of the youth in the State was disturbing".

"The youth of the State are mostly engaged in the informal economy and survive through subsistence self-employment or through casual jobs".

"In urban areas, people settle for jobs that are way below their expertise, while disguised employment is common in rural Bihar," he told *The Hindu*.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No.: BalanMemuShedBAND-Railnet Dated : 14-08-2024
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work

Item of work	Approx. Value
Provision of Balance work of Railnet connectivity, Railway Phone, Intercom, Wi-Fi Router and CCTV cameras for new service building in MEMU shed at Banaswadi (BAND)	Rs. 9,13,549.74

Last date for submission of bids : Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 06-09-2024
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/Bengaluru
PUB/358/AAF/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

NOTICE
Before the Central Government Registrar of Companies, Bangalore
In the matter of Section 13(4) of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rule 30 of Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014 AND in the matter of **AL SALIM ARABIA PRIVATE LIMITED** having its registered office at **PRAGATHI MAHALAKSHMI, GROUND FLOOR, SOUTH BLOCK, 62,NARASIMHA LAYOUT, YESHWANTPUR, Bangalore, BANGLORE, Karnataka, India, 560022**
Petitioner
Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the Company proposes to make a petition to Registrar of Companies, Kerala under section 13(4) of the Companies Act, 2013seeking permission to change its Registered office from the state of"Karnataka" to the state of "Kerala". Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the Company may deliver or cause to be delivered or send by Registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest and grounds of opposition supported by an affidavit to the Registrar of Companies, Bangalore, within 21(twenty one) days from the date of publication of this notice with a copy to the petitioner Company at its registered office at the address mentioned above.
For and on behalf of **AL SALIM ARABIA PRIVATE LIMITED**
Date:22-08-2024 Sd/-
Place: Bangalore Director

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform General Public that my client has entered into an Agreement for Sale with **MR. NITIN .M. BHAWALKAR** and **MRS. SHREYA NITIN BHAWALKAR** agreeing to purchase the property described in the schedule below. Any person or persons having or claiming any right, title or interest in the schedule property may file their objections with the undersigned with in **7 days** from the publication of this notice with document proof in support of their claim. Failing, my client will proceed to complete the purchase of schedule property, and any claim received after the stipulated period will not be entertained.
SCHEDULE
All that residential flat bearing**No-B-302,** 3rd floor, **'CVK MEENAKSHI ELEGANCE'**, constructed on residentially converted land in survey No- 23 measuring 1A-12G, situated at **Kalena Agrahara village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk,** with super built area measuring 1160 sq.ft., and undivided share in the land measuring 516 sq.ft., along with car parking at the basement of the building and bounded as follows:
EAST : Open area, WEST : Flat No-B309 & Lands of Sy. No 27 NORTH : Flat No-B301 & Main Road, SOUTH : Service lift and flat No-B303 & Lands of Sy. No 27.
JAYSHREE SRIDHAR, Advocate
'Chamundeshwari Nilaya, No-106, 2nd Cross, 4th Main, BHCS layout, BTM 2nd Stage, BANGALORE-560 076. (M) 9844136181
Mail id: jayashsridhar@gmail.com
BANGALORE Dated : 22/08/2024

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-AUCTION NOTIFICATION
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites Bidders to participate in E-Auctions for contracts as scheduled below.

Sl. No.	E-Auction Catalogue No.	Stations	Category/ Sub-Category	Date & Time of E-Auctioning
1	PARKING-HAS-24	Hassan Railway Station	PARKING - Mixed	30.08.2024 & 15.00 Hrs.

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
PUB/356/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2024-25 Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Mysuru
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

Information & Public Relations Department
Government of Jharkhand
NOTICE OF CANCELLATION
Tender Detail: **Selection of Agency for Mapping Show at Hatte Bazaar's in different Districts of Jharkhand. Due to some unavoidable reasons the above mentioned tender having Tender (PR No. 332332,Dated 10-08-2024) ID: 2024_IPRD_89877_1, Tender Ref No: 1227 is hereby cancelled.**
PR 333363 IPRD (24-25)_D Director

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल दुमका।
अति अल्पकालीन ई–निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
निविदा संख्या– 08/2024-25/RWD/EE/DUMKA दिनांक– 20.08.2024
1. कार्यपालक अभियंता ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, दुमका द्वारा निम्न विवरणी के अनुसार E-procurement पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र. सं.	आईडेंटिफिकेशन संख्या / पैकेज संख्या	कार्य का नाम	लं0 (कि0मी0)	प्राक्कलित राशि (रु० में) अंक में	अक्षर में	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
1	RWD/DUMKA/25/STPKG-24/2024-25	बनरा से लोहमरवा तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य।	2.600	10,25,76,600	दस करोड़ पच्चीस लाख छिहत्तर हजार छः सौ	15 महीने
2		चम्पागढ़ से कारूडीह भाया जोकेला बनरा तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य।	10.90			
3		समय से झोपा तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य।	5.800			
4		पी0डब्ल्यू0डी0 कुरमाहाट से लकड़बांक भाया महेशखंदा तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य।	3.500			
5		आर0ई0ओ0 रोड समय झोपा से बाबुपुर तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य।	1.100			

1. वेबसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि 24.08.2024
2. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय 03.09.2024 अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक।
3. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि Online के माध्यम से जमा किया जाएगा।
4. निविदा खोलने की तिथि 05.09.2024 एवं समय पूर्वाह्न 11:30 बजे।
5. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता– कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, दुमका।
6. ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का सम्पर्क संख्या– 06434 291033
7. विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए jharkhandtenders.gov.in/नोटिस बोर्ड में देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल दुमका।
PR 333277 Rural Work Department(24-25)D

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, सं0–02,गढ़वा।
ई–निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या–RDD/SD/GARHWA/10/2024-25,
दिनांक–21.08.2024
1.कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी:

क्र०सं०	कार्य का नाम	प्रशासनिक स्वी0 की राशि	अग्रधन की राशि	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	लम्बाई (मी0 में)
1	गढ़वा जिला के चिनियाँ प्रखण्ड अंतर्गत ग्राम–रनपुरा से पुरेगड़ा जाने वाली पथ के बीच करुअसन नाला पर (पुरानडीह नाला) उच्च स्तरीय पुल निर्माण।	2,64,12,800.00	5,28,300.00	10000.00	18 माह	44.72

2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि – 23.08.2024
3. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय दिनांक–23.08.2024 से दिनांक–29.08.2024 को अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक
4. ई–निविदा खोलने का स्थान – कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, सं0–02,गढ़वा।
5. ई–निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय–31.08.2024 अपराह्न 2:00 बजे
6. ई–निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :– कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, सं0–02,गढ़वा।
7. ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं० –8002373581 (संबंधित कार्यपालक अभियंता का दूरभाष नम्बर)
8. परिमाण विपत्र की राशि घट–बढ़ सकती है तद्नुसार अग्रधन की राशि देय होगी।
9. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि केवल **Online Mode** द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।
10. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि का ई–भुगतान जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते में अग्रधन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर खाता को बंद कर दिया जाता है तो उसकी सारी जवाबदेही आपकी होगी।

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ISLAMABAD

UAE accepts Afghanistan envoy in a major diplomatic win for Taliban

AP

The United Arab Emirates on Wednesday accepted the credentials of the Taliban's Ambassador to the oil-rich Gulf Arab state Badruddin Haqqani (first from right), in what is perceived as the biggest diplomatic coup for Afghanistan's rulers who are not officially recognised as the country's legitimate government.AP

MOSCOW

Russia comes under one of the largest drone attacks by Ukraine

REUTERS

Moscow came under one of the largest attacks by Ukrainian drones since the start of fighting in 2022, Russian authorities reported on Wednesday, saying they destroyed all of those headed toward the capital. Russia said it downed 45 Ukrainian drones overnight, including 11 over the Moscow region. AP

MANILA

Philippines says new mpox case detected is 'not' a deadly variant

AFP

The first mpox case reported by the Philippines this year is a mild variant and not the deadly strain sparking global alarm, officials said on Wednesday. The highly transmissible Clade 1b strain of the virus has killed hundreds in DR Congo and has also been detected Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and Sweden. AFP

SARAJEVO

Bosnia high school staffer shoots dead three colleagues: police

REUTERS

Three high school employees were shot dead on Wednesday at a school in northwest Bosnia by a co-worker who then tried to kill himself, police said. The shooting occurred around 10 a.m. local time in Sanski Most as teachers held a meeting to prepare for the upcoming school year and no students were present. AFP

Obama endorses Harris at Democrats' party meeting

U.S. is ready for Harris's presidency, he says; in a throwback to his campaign slogan, Obama states "Yes she can" about the Vice-President; Michelle Obama stresses on 'the contagious power of hope'

Agence France-Presse
CHICAGO

Barack Obama told fellow Democrats in Chicago on Tuesday that "the torch has been passed" to Kamala Harris and that the U.S. was ready for her to become President.

Former President Obama, who was greeted with rapturous applause and cheers at the packed arena hosting the party's nominating convention, said Vice-President Harris would fight for Americans, and called her November poll rival Donald Trump "dangerous."

"Kamala Harris is ready for the job. This is a person who has spent her life fighting for people who need a voice," he said.

"Yes she can," Mr. Obama said of Ms. Harris, prompting the boisterous crowd to repeatedly chant the phrase, recalling Mr. Obama's own "Yes we can" campaign slogan.

Partners in campaign: Kamala Harris and running mate Tim Walz during a campaign rally in Milwaukee on Tuesday. AP

His wife and former U.S. First Lady Michelle Obama told convention goers "something magically wonderful is in the air."

"It's the contagious power of hope," she said, calling Ms. Harris "my girl" and saying that hope – another rallying cry of her husband's successful 2008 campaign – "is making a comeback."

In personal remarks shifting the focus onto Ms. Harris's qualities, her husband, Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff, told the convention "she is ready."

With the party united and Ms. Harris polling strongly, Democrats are making clear they believe they can defeat Mr. Trump.

Bangladesh interim govt. to revoke diplomatic passports issued during Hasina era

Kallol Bhattacherjee
DHAKA

The interim government of Bangladesh has decided to revoke all diplomatic passports issued to the members of parliament who served during the Awami League government, the security branch of the Home Ministry of Bangladesh informed on Wednesday evening.

The decision implies that the diplomatic passport used by Ms. Hasina while fleeing to India has now been revoked. "The security service of the Home Ministry has taken this decision after consulting all stakeholders and has already alerted all emigration counters of the country," the Home Ministry declared in a statement shared with the media here.

Sheikh Hasina

A formal order will be issued 'at the earliest', the notification declared. Ms. Hasina had won from Gopalganj-3 constituency to enter the Jatiyo Sansad in the January election as a re-elected MP.

The decision taken two weeks after formation of the interim government has highlighted the antipathy that the interim administration and the student leaders have been expressing over the presence of Ms. Hasina in India.

India silent

Ms. Hasina and her sister Sheikh Rehana left Dhaka on August 5 noon as protesters flooded Dhaka. The Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi has been tight-lipped about the diplomatic status that Ms. Hasina used to seek refuge in the country though it is understood that as the Prime Minister of Bangladesh she owned a diplomatic passport that she used while leaving for India.

Dhaka to press with its demands for Teesta waters

Kallol Bhattacherjee
DHAKA

Bangladesh may consider approaching an international platform for resolving the Teesta waters dispute, Syeda Rizwana Hasan, adviser on water, forest, environment and climate change of the new interim government, said in Dhaka on Wednesday.

Addressing a press interaction here, Ms. Hasan referred to the assertive stance taken by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee regarding the Teesta, and said the current administration in Bangladesh led by Nobel laureate Mohammed Yunus will take up the issues related to shared rivers between the two countries "forcefully".

Vote puts Ukraine a step closer to ICC membership

Reuters
KYIV

Ukraine's parliament voted on Wednesday to ratify the Rome Statute, officials said, allowing the country to join the International Criminal Court (ICC) in a step Ukrainian leaders have cast as central to Kyiv's plans of becoming part of Europe.

Ukraine has recognised the ICC's jurisdiction in the past, but full membership of the court is a key part of Ukraine's quest to eventually join the European Union.

It would also allow authorities "to more effectively punish" suspected Russian war criminals amid Moscow's war on Ukraine, according to lawmaker Oleksiy Honcharenko.

Israel kills Palestinian militant as Gaza truce talks stumble

Agence France-Presse
SIDON, LEBANON

It is the first such attack on a senior Fatah member in more than 10 months of Gaza war

Israel killed a senior militant from Fatah's armed wing on Wednesday in a strike on Lebanon, leading to accusations from the Palestinian movement that Israel is trying to "ignite a regional war".

Fatah, the Palestinian movement based in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, said Khalil Maqdah was killed in a strike near the southern Lebanese city of Sidon.

Wider war

The Israeli military said it targeted the brother of Mounir Maqdah, who heads the Lebanese branch of Fatah's armed wing.

In response, the slain militant's Fatah movement, which is headed by Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas and rivals the Gaza Strip's Islamist rulers Hamas, accused Israel of bidding to trigger a wider regional war. Mr. Maqdah's killing marks the first such attack on a senior Fatah member in more than 10 months of Gaza war.

It came only hours after U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken left empty-handed after a tour of West Asia aimed at reaching a ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza.

Hezbollah strikes military posts in north Israel

Reuters
DUBAI

Lebanon's Hezbollah launched an attack with a swarm of drones on military posts in the kibbutz of Amiad in northern Israel, the armed group said in a statement on Wednesday.

The Israeli kibbutz is located approximately 22 km from the Lebanese border. Israel's military said it could not confirm the attack.

Hezbollah said the attack was a retaliation for an Israeli strike on the Lebanese Bekaa region overnight.

Hezbollah and the Israeli military have been locked in hostilities for the last 10 months in parallel with the Gaza war between Israel and Hamas.

China opens investigation into EU dairy exports as trade tensions flare

Associated Press
BEIJING

European milk and cheese producers have become the latest target in a simmering trade war with China.

The Chinese Commerce Ministry said on Wednesday that it would launch an investigation into subsidies given by the European Union and EU member countries for dairy products that could lead to tariffs on their export to China.

The announcement came one day after the EU released a draft decision to finalise tariffs on electric vehicles made in China, in a follow-up to provisional tariffs announced last month. The tariffs have been denounced by the Chinese government and automakers and threaten to set back the industry's efforts to go global.

The dairy investigation will cover a range of products including fresh and processed cheese, blue cheese and milk and cream with a fat content of more than 10%. It will look at subsidies under the EU's Common Agricultural Policy as well as those given by eight European Union countries including Italy, Finland and Croatia.

China previously opened investigations into European brandy and pork exports at various stages of the EU investigation into Chinese subsidies for electric vehicles. The tit-for-tat investigations have raised fears that a full-blown trade war could be gradually emerging.

Bone of contention: Imported cheese from Europe are displayed at a supermarket in Beijing on Wednesday. AP

BUSINESS CONNECT

A Business Initiative

National Handloom Day organised by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry

The handloom textiles, woven with intricate patterns, tell timeless stories of tradition and craftsmanship. On National Handloom day (Aug 7), a handloom installation at Vidhana Soudha paid tribute to the state's textile heritage, celebrating both its history and its future. Organised by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) Ladies Organisation - FLO Bangalore Chapter, the display, led former chairperson Revathi Raju, showcased Karnataka's iconic weaves, highligting the state's diverse textile traditions, including ilkal, patteda, anchu, Hubbali sarees, Udupi sarees, Kasuti and Lambani embroidery.

Bengaluru Attracts Niche GCCs in Sports-Tech, Adding Another Feather to Karnataka's GCC Ecosystem

In a move that underscores Karnataka's growing appeal to specialized tech sectors, three international sports-tech companies - Zitro Games, Pro Football Focus (PFF), and PFF FC - are establishing their Global Capability Centers (GCCs) in Bengaluru. This development highlights the state's leadership to attract niche GCCs across various emerging technology sectors. The decision by these companies to set up their GCCs in Bengaluru exemplifies the city's reputation as a hub for innovation and technological expertise. Zitro Games, a leader in video bingo and slot machine development, along with Pro Football Focus and its affiliate PFF FC, renowned for their data-driven sports analytics, will bring their cutting-edge technologies to India's Silicon Valley.

CELEBRATION OF 78th INDEPENDENCE DAY AT KIOCL

The 78th Independence Day was celebrated at Corporate Office and in Mangaluru in a befitting manner. Shri GV Kiran, CMD hoisted the National flag at Nehru ground, Township at Mangaluru. Shri C Munikrishna, CGM (HR), Sr Officers, Employees, CISF personnel and their dependents were present on celebration of 78th Independence Day. CMD inspected the parade and received guard of honour from the CISF personnel. At Corporate office, Shri Binay Krushna Mahapatra, Director (Commercial) & Director (Finance)-Addl. Charge hoisted the National flag. Shri SVR Chandra Shekar, CVO, Sr Officers, employees & their dependents, residents of Kudremukh colony were present on the occasion. Shri Binay Krushna Mahapatra, Director (C) and Director (F)-Addl Charge addressed the gathering and spoke on the freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives to get freedom from the Britishers. He also highlighted that the launch of Viksit Bharat@2047 marks a significant milestone, elevating India to the status of a developed nation by 2047, the 100th year of its Independence. The present Steel industry & the company position was briefed with inspiring quotes. Sweets were distributed to all present.

78th Independence Day celebrations organised at Karnataka State Marketing Communication and Advertising Limited (KSMCA) Head Office in Bengaluru

Sri Satish Krishna Sail, Hon'ble MLA, Karwar Assembly Constituency and Chairman, KSMCA said that it was important that the next generation be made aware of the struggles and sacrifices of our freedom fighters. He was addressing the gathering at the 78th Independence Day celebrations organised at KSMCA Head Office in Bengaluru. He further added that it was under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi many leaders strived to get the people of this country free from over two centuries of British oppression. He said it was also important to let the future generations understand the principles propounded by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. Sri Mohammed Ateequlla Shariff, Managing Director, KSMCA, speaking on the occassion said that India as a country was renowned for its rich culture and heritage and we as Indians today need to honour the valiant leaders by learning from their life journey and inculcating them in our lives. Sri Nandisha P.S., Deputy General Manager, Senior Officers and Staff members participated in the Programme.

Implementation of special programs for Jalmandal employees: Jalmandal Chairman Dr.V.Ram Prasat Manohar

The 78th Independence Day celebrations were celebrated in Bengaluru Jalmandal on Thursday. Jalmandali Chairman Dr. V. Ramprasat Manohar hoisted the flag. Then to the officials and employees of Jalmandal who had gathered Tantriya congratulated him on the day. Jalmandali staff play a huge role in providing water from Kaveri river which is 100 km away to Bangalore city. Chief Ministers and Deputy Chief Ministers According to Chane, it has been decided to conduct special programs for the welfare of the employees of this Jalmandal in the current line. Cauvery 5th phase project is likely to be implemented by the end of this month, he said. On the same occasion, the book My Quest for Truth containing the biography of Mahatma Gandhi was distributed to the officers and staff. On this occasion the Chief Engineer of Water Board, Suresh, Chief Engineers and Deputy Chief Engineers, presidents of various unions of Jalmandal employees and many others were present. Release of new patriotic song "Janani Janmabhoomi". International Hindustani singers sang the patriotic song 'Janani Janmabhoomi' composed by one of the country's veteran writers Prof. BR Police Patil.On this occasion Sadashiva Kamble, President of Scheduled Caste Scheduled Category Employees Welfare Association of Bangalore Water Board, Mariappa, President of Employees' Union, Siddappa, President of Sanitary Union, Sr.Marigowda of Daliya Drivers Association and all office bearers, officers and employees of the association participated.

CURTAINS

Manuel Neuer retires from international football

AFP

Germany goalkeeper Manuel Neuer, a 2014 World Cup winner, announced his retirement from international football on Wednesday. The 38-year-old played 124 matches for Germany, captaining his country 61 times. Neuer wrote on social media that he was "convinced that now is the right time to take this step".

AIMING HIGH

India eyes 12 medals as Antil-led batch leaves for Paris in advance

GETTY IMAGES

Eyeing an unprecedented five gold and a dozen medals in total, the first batch of the Indian athletics team, including star javelin thrower Sumit Antil, left for the Paris Paralympics in advance to get acclimatised to the conditions. The 16 para athletes will stay at hotels in Paris for a few days before entering the Games Village on August 25.

BACK IN IT

Dhananjaya and Rathnayake lead Sri Lanka's fightback on day one

GETTY IMAGES

Skipper Dhananjaya de Silva and debutant fast bowler Milan Rathnayake, *in pic*, took Sri Lanka to 236 after a top-order collapse on the opening day of the first Test against England at Manchester. **The scores**: Sri Lanka 236 in 74 overs (Dhananjaya 74, Rathnayake 72, Woakes 3/32, Bashir 3/55) vs England 22/0 in four overs.

STEADYING THE BOAT

Ayub and Shakeel stabilise Pakistan after poor start

AP & AFP

Pakistan overcame a jittery start (16 for three) on a rain-hit opening day of the first Test against Bangladesh at Rawalpindi before Saim Ayub and Saud Shakeel guided the hosts to 158 for four at stumps. **The scores**: Pakistan 158/4 in 41 overs (Saim Ayub 56, Saud Shakeel 57 batting) vs Bangladesh.

Odisha govt. lays out the red carpet for Harmanpreet's men

Tribal folk dancers perform at the Biju Patnaik airport to greet the players after which they are taken in a bus in a procession with hundreds of youth on motorcycles escorting them; banners welcome the players all over the city

Moment to cherish: The Indian men's hockey team poses with the Chief Minister of Odisha, Mohan Charan Majhi, at the felicitation programme. BISWARANJAN ROUT

HOCKEY

Y.B. Sarangi
BHUBANESWAR

Carrying forward the legacy of the previous dispensation, the Odisha Government, the principal sponsor of the Indian hockey team until 2036, on Wednesday rose to the occasion and organised a grand welcome for the Indian side which won its second consecutive bronze medal in the Paris Olympics.

Tribal folk dancers performed at the Biju Patnaik airport here to welcome the players on their arrival from Delhi. Then captain Harmanpreet Singh and his men were taken out in a bus in a procession as hundreds of youth on motorcycles escorted them.

Banners welcoming the players were put up all over the city and posters of the Olympic bronze winning side adorned the platforms along the route to the players' hotel.

At a function organised in the evening, all the members of the team, including goalkeeper P.R. Sreejesh, who played his last international match in the bronze medal contest against Spain, and midfielder Hardik Singh, with his left hand (which he injured during the match again Spain) in sling, and local favourite Amit Rohidas, were felicitated by Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi in the presence of Deputy Chief Ministers K.V. Singh Deo and Pravati Parida and former India captain and Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey.

The players were given cheques of ₹15 lakh each, barring Rohidas and Sreejesh, while the support staff were given ₹10 lakh each apart from mementos.

Rohidas was awarded ₹4 crore, while Sreejesh got ₹50 lakh.

"Odisha is our second home. Feels at home. When I go to my village, I tell we must learn from Odisha and what they do for sports. The support we get in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela, we don't get it anywhere else. These memories will stay with me forever," said Sreejesh.

Famous sand artist Sudarshan Patnaik handed a photo frame of his work to the Indian team members.

"The Indian hockey team has made the country proud by winning bronze medals in Tokyo and Paris Olympics. I want to assure everyone that as the team prepares for the Los Angeles Olympics, the people of Odisha will support it," said CM Majhi.

Later, the government hosted a state dinner for the players.

No clear favourites as UTT Season 5 begins today

Ready to rock: Harmeet, Snehit, Szocs, Sharath Kamal, Manika, Sathiyan, Ayhika and Quadri will lead their teams' challenge. M. VEDHAN

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

Four seasons have gone by in the Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) beginning 2017 with the league not taking place due to different reasons in 2020, '21 & '22. And, all the four years have witnessed different champions.

In UTT's fifth edition, to be held at the Nehru Indoor Stadium here from August 22 to September 7, there will be eight teams, two more than the last edition. The new teams are Ahmedabad SG Pipers and Jaipur Patriots.

Without doubt, there are no clear favourites. The league promises intense competition and possibly a new champion. Goa Challengers, the defending champion, and Dabang Delhi TTC, 2018 winner and 2019 runner-up, however, will be more than eager to do what no team has done before in UTT: win the title twice.

Barring Sreeja Akula (out of the event due to stress facture) and Archana Kamath, all the top-ranked Indians including Sharath Kamal (playing for Chennai Lions), Harmeet Desai (Goa Challengers), G. Sathiyan (Dabang) and Manika Batra (Bengaluru Smashers) will be taking part.

Ahmedabad's Bernadette Szocs, the Romanian women's world No. 13, and U Mumba TT's Quadri Aruna, the men's world No. 20 from Nigeria, will be the highest ranked players in the league.

Just like what the Indian Premier League has done for Indian cricketers, UTT has done its bit for Indian paddlers. Locking horns with top-notch foreign players and seeing them from close quarters during training sessions has only improved their match-awareness.

"Personally, it has helped me. The players come to UTT from different countries, and we play against them, we play with them," said three-time Olympian Manika.

The format is the same as last time. Each team will play five matches (women's & men's singles, mixed doubles and the reverse singles) in a tie. Each match will comprise three games. The winning team in a tie will be decided by the number of total games won. The team that wins eight or more games out of the 15 will be adjudged the winner.

Like the previous edition that saw Goa pip Chennai 8-7 in the final, there could be an engrossing final and gripping league overall this time too.

Shah front-runner to become ICC chairman

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

Jay Shah, the secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), has emerged as the front-runner to succeed Greg Barclay as the International Cricket Council (ICC) chairman from December 1.

Shah's candidature received a major boost when the ICC, through a media release on Tuesday night, confirmed Barclay's decision to step down from his post at the annual conference in November.

Shah was in attendance at the CEAT awards on Wednesday evening. While he was confident about India winning the Champions Trophy and the World Test Championship, he did not comment about the ICC development.

According to the rulebook, Barclay was eligible to seek a third term of two years. However, as he has decided to step down, Shah's elevation appears a mere formality. Each of the 16 current ICC directors will have to file nominations by August 27. Should there be multiple nominations, there will be an election in November and the new chairman will take over on December 1.

Jay Shah. PTI

Shah has to serve a cooling-off period of at least three years at the BCCI after his current tenure ends in September 2025. However, he will have to resign as the BCCI secretary before taking over as the ICC chief.

Should he take over, the 35-year-old Shah will become the youngest ICC chief.

He will join the Indians' club of Jagmohan Dalmiya, Sharad Pawar, N. Srinivasan and Shashank Manohar who have helmed the ICC.

We didn't do anything different between ODI, T20I WCs: Dravid

CRICKET

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

Former India head coach Rahul Dravid on Wednesday said the support staff strived to carry the energetic "team atmosphere" from the ODI World Cup in 2023 to the T20 showpiece, and the approach helped the Men in Blue end a barren run in ICC tournaments.

Dravid masterminded India's triumph in the ICC T20 World Cup in the Americas before signing off from his role as the head coach in June this year.

"Honestly, I didn't want to do anything different. I think we ran a fantastic campaign in the ODI World Cup... Rohit and the team, and everyone involved in that World Cup," said Dravid at the CEAT Awards.

India had suffered a heartbreaking defeat to Australia in the ODI World Cup final at Ahmedabad in November last year.

"There's nothing we could have done more in terms of preparation, planning and execution," said Dravid.

Special day: Rohit receives the Cricketer of the Year award from Shah and Goenka, chairman, RPG Group. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Dravid with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

For the T20 campaign, Dravid revealed that there was consensus on what had to be done. "We needed to create the same energy, the same vibe, the same team atmosphere and hope that on the day, we will have a bit of luck," he said.

The CEAT awards:

Lifetime Achievement: Rahul Dravid.

Men's International Cricketer of the Year: Rohit Sharma; **Men's ODI batter of the year:** Virat Kohli; **Men's ODI bowler of the year:** Mohammad Shami; **Men's Test batter of the year:** Yashasvi Jaiswal; **Men's Test bowler of the year:** R. Ashwin. **Men's T20I batter of the year:** Phil Salt; **Men's T20I bowler of the year:** Tim Southee. **Domestic Cricketer of the year:** Sai Kishore; **Women's Indian batter of the year:** Smriti Mandhana; **Women's Indian bowler of the year:** Deepti Sharma.

Excellence in Sports Administration: Jay Shah.

Special recognition: Most matches as captain in Women's T20Is: Harmanpreet Kaur; **Outstanding leadership in IPL 2024:** Shreyas Iyer; **Fastest double century in Women's Tests:** Shafali Verma.

Ganguly, Aronyak and Neelash jump into the lead

P.K. Ajith Kumar
GURUGRAM

From a field of 338, three have moved in front. All of them speak Bengali.

Three Kolkatans – Surya Shekhar Ganguly, Aronyak Ghosh and Neelash Saha – were in the lead with five points each at the end of the fifth round of the 61st National chess championship at the RPS International School on Wednesday.

With six rounds remaining, they were followed half-a-point behind by defending champion S.P. Sethuraman, Karthik Venkataraman, Diptayan Ghosh, Sayantan Das and G. Akash, who scored a surprise win over P. Shyaam Nikhil.

IM Neelash, seeded 16th, upset seventh seed Sankalp Gupta on the third board. With white pieces in a King's Indian Defence game, he did well to convert his advantage in space to victory. He sacrificed an exchange on the 31st move. And 12 moves later, Sankalp resigned, with checkmate not far away.

On the top board, playing from the black side of an Italian Game, Ganguly won in 44 moves against Deep Sengupta. Aronyak opted for Sicilian Defence on his way to a 59-move victory against M.R. Venkatesh.

Important results (fifth round): Deep Sengupta (PSPB) 4 lost to Surya Shekhar Ganguly (PSPB) 5; Sayantan Das (RSPB) 4.5 drew with Karthik Venkataraman (AP) 4.5; Neelash Saha (RSPB) 5 bt Sankalp Gupta (Mah) 4; M.R. Venkatesh (PSPB) 4 lost to Aronyak Ghosh (RSPB) 5; Diptayan Ghosh (RSPB) 4.5 bt Zahid Raihaan (TS) 4; Neelotpal Das (PSPB) 3.5 lost to S.P. Sethuraman (PSPB) 4.5; Mitrabha Guha (RSPB) 4 drew with S. Nitin (RSPB) 4; N.R. Vignesh (RSPB) 4 drew with Antonia Viani (Kar) 4; R.R. Laxman (RSPB) drew with N.R. Visakh (RSPB) 4; P. Shyaam Nikhil (RSPB) 3.5 lost to G. Akash (TN) 4.5; Sriram Jha (LIC) 4 drew with Swapnil Dhopade (Mah) 4; J. Deepan Chakkravarthy (RSPB) 4 drew with Arjun Adireddy (TS) 4; Ajay Karthikeyan (TN) 4 drew with Vignesh Adwaith Vemula (Tel) 4; P. Iniyan (TN) 4 bt Kheerthi Ganta (TS) 3; Sharsha Backer (Ker) 3 lost to Himal Gusain (RSPB) 4.

INBRIEF

Chelsea signs Joao Felix as Gallagher leaves for Atletico

Chelsea on Wednesday confirmed the signing of Portugal forward Joao Felix on a permanent transfer from Atletico Madrid, shortly after England midfielder Conor Gallagher completed a move in the opposite direction. Felix, aged 24, has signed a seven-year contract.

Gukesh and Nepomniachtchi in a thrilling draw

Indian GM D. Gukesh played out a thrilling draw with Russia's Ian Nepomniachtchi to be tied second after the second round of the Sinquefield Cup chess. Alireza Firouzja of France remained ahead with 1.5 points.

Second round results: Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra, 1) drew with R. Praggnanandhaa (Ind, 1); Anish Giri (Ned, 1) drew with Ding Liren (Chn, 1); Wesley So (USA, 1) drew with Fabiano Caruana (USA, 0.5); D,. Gukesh (Ind, 1) drew with Ian Nepomniachtchi (FIDE, 1); Alireza Firouzja (Fra, 1.5) drew with Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb, 1).

Dahiya clinches bronze; three Indian women in semifinals

Greco-Roman practitioner Ronak Dahiya bagged bronze in the 110kg while three Indian women progressed to the semifinals in the u-17 World wrestling championships in Amman. In the bronze play-off, Ronak beat Turkey's Emrullah Capkan 6-1 to claim India's first medal on Tuesday. He had lost to eventual silver medallist Zoltan Czako of Hungary in the semifinal. In the women's section, Aditi Kumari(43kg), Neha (57kg) and Pulkit (65kg) advanced.

LIVE TELECAST

England vs Sri Lanka: 1st Test, day 2, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 3.30 p.m.

KSCA Maharaja T20 Trophy: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & FanCode, 6.30 p.m.

Gulbarga Mystics has an easy day at the office

It coasts to a nine-wicket victory over Shivamogga Lions with Sisodia leading the chase ably assisted by Padikkal and Aneesh

The star: Sisodia's unbeaten half-century and his handy partnerships with Padikkal and Aneesh did it for Mystics. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

MAHARAJA TROPHY

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Gulbarga Mystics coasted to a nine-wicket victory over Shivamogga Lions in the Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20 at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Wednesday.

Abhishek Prabhakar and Yashovardhan Parantap snatched three wickets each for Gulbarga, while Abhinav Manohar fought back with 55 runs in 36 balls. Shivamogga was dismissed for a sub-par 126.

The chase was led by Luvnith Sisodia (62 n.o.), who hit five boundaries and five sixes. Sisodia's handy partnerships with Devdutt Padikkal (27) and K.V. Aneesh (31 n.o.) brought the game to an early close.

Sisodia and Padikkal began Gulbarga's innings with a flurry of boundaries, combining for 68 runs in the first six overs.

Aneesh replaced Padikkal seamlessly. Luvnith brought up his half century with a six pummelled straight down the ground. Gulbarga met the target of 127 in just 11.4 overs.

Shivamogga got off to a slow start with the bat, crawling to 30 for four in six overs.

Abhinav shone bright for Shivamogga while the wickets tumbled around him.

The scores: Shivamogga Lions 126 in 18.1 overs (Abhinav Manohar 55, Y. Parantap 3/24, A. Prabhakar 3/22) lost to Gulbarga Mystics 127 for one in 11.4 overs (Luvnith Sisodia 62 n.o., K.V. Aneesh 31 n.o.).

Mysuru Warriors 165 in 19.3 overs (Karun Nair 66, S.U. Karthik 34, L.R. Kumar 3/39, Manvanth Kumar 3/34) bt Hubli Tigers 109 in 17 overs (J. Suchith 4/14).

Indrajith, Lokeshwar rescue TN XI against Haryana

BUCHI BABU

Tarun Shastry
COIMBATORE

B. Indrajith (139 retired hurt, 197b, 13x4, 2x6) lit up the day as Tamil Nadu XI posted 329 for six against Haryana at stumps on day one in the second round of the Buchi Babu Memorial all-India invitational cricket tournament at the Sri Ramakrishna College ground here on Wednesday.

After a 45-minute delay due to a downpour, Tami Nadu, choosing to bat, had a bad start.

Overcast conditions

The overcast conditions played a significant role, allowing pacers Ajit Chahal and Anshul Khamboj to swing the ball effectively.

They dismissed opener G. Ajitesh, who played across the line and top-edged to cover, and Pradosh Ranjan Paul, who poked at an outgoing delivery and edged to first slip, leaving TN XI in a spot of bother at 21 for two.

Indrajith and the other opener, S. Lokeshwar (99, 203b, 11x4, 1x6), displayed remarkable skill and composure, forging a solid partnership.

As the innings progressed, their assurance grew and they unleashed a barrage of shots across the ground. Indrajith played the lead role, showcasing his experience during their impressive 213-run third-wicket association.

The scores: Tamil Nadu XI 329/6 in 89.2 overs (S. Lokeshwar 99, B. Indrajith 139 retd. hurt) vs Haryana. **Toss**: TN XI.

In full flow: TNCA President's XI's Andre Siddarth came good with the bat. E. LAKSHMI NARAYANAN

Siddarth, Ali propel TNCA President's XI

S. Prasanna Venkatesan
SALEM

Propelled by C. Andre Siddarth's 81 (108b, 8x4, 1x6), TNCA President's XI got to 283 for six against Railways on day one of the Group-B match in the second round of the Buchi Babu Memorial all-India invitational cricket tournament at the Salem Cricket Foundation (SCF) ground here on Wednesday.

He was involved in an 139-run sixth-wicket partnership with S. Mohamed Ali (62 batting, 115b, 7x4, 1x6). Railways' left-arm spinner Ayan Chaudhary took three for 95 on the day.

From 144 for five, Siddarth and Mohamed Ali batted till stumps.

Boundaries

Siddarth came down the track and hit a straight four before he cut Ayan for another four in the same over. He played the cut again for a boundary each off pacer Sanjay Kumar and off-spinner Vishal Harsh, and employed the late cut too for a four each off Ayan and another left-arm spinner Raj Chaudhary. He also charged at Ayan for an inside-out six.

Ali slog-swept to deep midwicket, charged for a one-handed straight shot, and cover-droved for three fours off Raj. He charged at Vishal twice to flick and swipe for a four and a maximum to deep midwicket. Siddarth was caught behind off left-arm spinner Mohammad Saif on the last ball of the day.

Useful knocks

Left-handed opener R. Vimal Khumar (42, 68b, 7x4) and K.T.A. Madhava Prasad (47, 115b, 8x4) notably contributed before the big sixth-wicket stand.

Earlier, the toss and the start of the day's play were delayed because of a wet patch caused by overnight rain on the pitch. And there was a brief spell of light rain that halted play after 7.4 overs.

The scores:

At Salem: TNCA President's XI 283/6 in 85.2 overs (R. Vimal Khumar 42, K.T.A. Madhava Prasad 47, S. Mohamed Ali 62 batting, C. Andre Siddarth 81) vs. Railways; **Toss:** TNCA President's XI.

At Tirunelveli: Jharkhand 178 in 70.4 overs (Sharandeep Singh 78, Tanay Thyagarajann 5/47) vs Hyderabad 61/1 in 14 overs (Rahul Singh 43 batting). **Toss:** Jharkhand.

At Dindigul: Baroda 255 in 79.2 overs (Ninad Rathva 111, Sahil Lotra 5/77, Abid Mushtaq 4/100) vs Jammu & Kashmir 29/2 in 10 overs. **Toss:** Baroda

Shillong Lajong to take on NorthEast United in the Durand Cup semifinals

Sports Bureau
KOLKATA

The heroes: Nestor Albiach and Guillermo Fernandez scores for NEUFC against Indian Army FT.

Shillong Lajong FC got past a tentative Emami East Bengal FC 2-1 in the 133rd Durand Cup quarterfinals on Wednesday.

The match played at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Shillong saw the host take an early lead via its Brazilian forward Marcos Rudwere. The hosts protected the goal advantage till late in the fourth quarter when East Bengal found the equaliser through a beautiful volley from Nandhakumar Sekar.

The home side regrouped quickly and regained the lead in the 83rd minute when substitute Figo Syndai tapped home to finish a well-orchestrated attacking move.

Still in the middle of its pre-season, East Bengal struggled to get its organisation in the attacking zone right despite having over 60 % ball possession. Egged on by a partisan crowd, Shillong Lajong showed a better conversion rate and created decisive openings to get the win.

While East Bengal, the previous year's finalist, saw its campaign end early, Shillong Lajong made a big statement with a semifinal berth.

Lajong FC now travels to Kolkata to meet the Guwahati-based NorthEast United FC.

A couple of strikes in the second half helped NEU FC get the better of Indian Army FT 2-0 at the SAI stadium in Kokrajhar and book its place in the semifinals.

Spaniards Nestor Albiach and Guillermo Fernandez found the target once each for the Highlanders.

It will be an interesting clash of two regional rivals in the first semifinal scheduled at the Salt Lake stadium on Sunday.

The results: Quarterfinals: At Kokrajhar: NorthEast United FC 2 (Nestor Albiach 52, Guillermo Fernandez 73) bt Indian Army FT 0.

At Shillong: Shillong Lajong FC 2 (Marcos Rudwere 8, Figo Syndai 83) bt Emami East Bengal FC 1 (Nandhakumar Sekar 77).

Sathish Kumar in pre-quarterfinals

BADMINTON

Press Trust of India
YOKOHAMA

Indian shuttler Sathish Kumar Karunakaran progressed to the men's singles pre-quarterfinals after Denmark's Anders Antonsen retired hurt midway in their opening-round match at the Japan Open here on Wednesday.

The 23-year-old Indian was leading 6-1 when Antonsen, the world number three, retired just three minutes into the contest at the Yokohama Arena.

Sathish, ranked 47th in the world, will take on Kantaphon Wangcharoen of Thailand in the round of 16.

However, Kiran George made a first-round exit from the men's singles competition, going down to Japan's Kanta Tsuneyama 21-19, 21-14 in the Super 750 tournament.

The results: Men: Sathish Kumar Karunakaran bt Anders Antonsen (Den) 6-1 retd.; Kanta Tsuneyama (Jpn) bt Kiran George 21-19, 21-14.

Mixed doubles: Jesper Toft and Amalie Magelund (Den) bt Sumeeth Reddy and Sikki Reddy (retd hurt).

Women: Doubles: Julie Finne-Ipsen and Mai Surrow (Den) bt Rutuparna Panda and Swetaparna Panda 21-8, 21-14.

Former basketballer Sanath Kumar passes away

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Former Karnataka basketball player Sanath Kumar passed away on Wednesday. He was 64.

He represented the State senior teams in 1980s and 90s and also played for Orions Sports Club, Vijaya Bank, HAL and GST Customs.

He played for Junior India and participated in the Asian Basketball Championship in Bangkok in 1980.

The Karnataka State Basketball Association condoled the death.

After Paris silver, Neeraj takes aim in Lausanne Diamond League

ATHLETICS

Press Trust of India
LAUSANNE

Two weeks after winning his historic silver medal at the Paris Olympics, javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra will resume action at the Lausanne Diamond League meeting on Thursday, seeking to reclaim the DL trophy at the season-ending finale next month.

Nursing a long-standing groin injury, Neeraj claimed a silver in the Paris Olympics on August 8 with a 89.45m throw, having won a historic gold in the Tokyo edition of the Games three years ago.

The 26-year-old double Olympic medallist on Saturday confirmed his participation at the Diamond League meeting in Lausanne, leaving a decision on a possible surgery after the end of the season.

Neeraj was the Diamond League champion in 2022 and finished second behind Jakub Vadlejch of Czech Republic in the winner-takes-all DL final in Eugene, USA, last year.

Strong finish

This season's DL finals will be held in Brussels on September 14. He needs to finish in the top-six of the Diamond League meetings series standings to qualify for the season finale.

There is another DL meeting – in Zurich on September 5 – which has men's javelin throw event in its roster.

He is currently at fourth spot with seven points he has garnered after finishing second behind Vadlejch in Doha on May 10.

After a busy couple of days post the Olympic final on August 8, Neeraj started training in Switzerland and is determined to finish the season on a high despite being restricted by the injury.

"I came to Switzerland for training ahead of the Diamond League. Luckily, I did not aggravate my injury as I took extra care of that. I thought of continuing my season like most other athletes. There is one month to go until the season ends. I will go to the doctors in my free time," he had said last week.

Neeraj will be up against a top-class field in Lausanne with five of the top-six finishers in Paris Olympics final competing. Only Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem, who stunned the athletics world by winning the gold with an Olympic record throw of 92.97m, is missing.

Nadeem had finished fourth in the Paris Diamond League on July 7 with a throw of 84.21m. That was the only DL meeting – as well as the lone event apart from the Olympics – he had taken part this season. He is currently at sixth spot in the standings with five points.

Having been pushed to fourth with a throw of 88.50m in Paris after winning a silver in Tokyo, Vadlejch would be looking to maintain his form in his bid to defend the DL title.

Two-time world champion Anderson Peters of Grenada, who took bronze in Paris with 88.54m, has been on the ascendancy after a poor last season, and he is capable of pulling off big throws, having already gone past the 90m mark in his career.

Neeraj has been the most consistent javelin thrower in the last couple of seasons, before Nadeem pulled off the heist in Paris, and the Indian will start as favourite in Lausanne on Thursday.

Battle ready: Neeraj has been the most consistent this season and should start as the favourite. RITU RAJ KONWAR